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There is a need for a national programme

The link is assessment, intervention, awareness

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Former India player Durani passes away

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Cattle van driver found dead after assault by 'cow vigilantes' near Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Idrees Pasha and Puneeth Kerehalli (right). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A murder case was registered late on Saturday night against a group of self-styled cow vigilantes, who allegedly tortured and killed a 39-year-old assistant driver of a van transporting cattle on the outskirts of Bengaluru early that morning.

Idrees Pasha was found dead at Sathanur village in Kanakapura taluk, just hours after the vigilante gang intercepted and allegedly attacked the van's three occupants.

The deceased's last rites were held on Sunday, with his brother Yunus Pasha alleging that the body had several "burn injuries and wounds indicating he was tortured and killed". Acting on his complaint, the Sathanur police registered a murder case against vigilante leader Puneeth Kerehalli, who is absconding, and his associates.

The incident occurred in the Kanakapura constituency, represented by Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar, days ahead of the Assembly election, triggering a political slugfest.

Tweeting photos of the accused with several prominent BJP leaders, including Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, the Congress and the Janata Dal(S) have accused the ruling BJP of fostering such elements to disturb communal harmony in the State.

Idrees Pasha, of Mandya, was assisting Syed Zaheer, 40, who was driving the van belonging to a cattle trader, Irfan.

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OPPOSITION SLAMS BJP
» PAGE 6

On same-sex union, faith leaders show rare unity

Muslim, Jain, Sikh and Christian leaders, along with the RSS, are opposing same-sex marriage as the SC takes up the case, arguing that it contravenes scriptures, societal values and natural order

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

Religious leaders across different faiths have joined hands to oppose the plea for recognition of same-sex marriages in the Supreme Court.

Some have filed an application in the Supreme Court opposing petitions in favour of same-sex marriages, while others have written to the President seeking her intervention.

The Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the Communion of Churches, and the Akal Takht, along with representatives of the Ajmer dargah and Jain gurus, have raised concerns about a legal sanction for same-sex marriages, claiming that it is against the natural family order apart from being in contravention of their differing scriptures. Several leaders reiterated the sentiment that marriage is an institution for procreation, not recreation. The RSS also opposes same-sex marriage, though it has accepted same-sex relationships, holding a position in line with the Centre.

> The concept of marriage between two opposite sexes is like the basic feature of marriage itself which leads to the creation of a bundle of rights (maintenance, inheritance, guardianship, custody). By these petitions, the petitioners are seeking to dilute the concept of marriage by introducing a free-floating system
> JAMIAT ULAMA-I-HIND

The Supreme Court Bench has said that the hearing of the case will be livestreamed from April 18 in public interest.

'Diluting the concept'

Taking the lead is the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, which filed an application in the top court. "The concept of marriage between two opposite sexes is like the basic feature of marriage itself which leads to the creation of a bundle of rights (maintenance, inheritance, guardianship, custody). By these petitions, the petitioners are seeking to dilute the concept of marriage by introducing a free-floating system through the concept of same-sex marriage," the application read.

In a media statement, the Jamaat-e-Islami's vice-president Salim Engineer referred to a marriage between a man and a woman as "the correct form" of marriage.

A DEATH TO FAMILY SYSTEM
» PAGE 11

A MATTER FOR PARLIAMENT
» PAGE 9

NEARBY

Women voters on the rise

BENGALURU
The number of women voters in Karnataka has gone up significantly. From 55.13 lakh in 1962, the number of women voters has touched 2.5 crore this year. » Page 4

Sankey Road plan sets off slugfest

BENGALURU
The proposed flyover to be built on Sankey Road has become a political bone of contention with the Congress and the BJP indulging in a war of words over it. » Page 2

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 7

Rahul to file appeal in Surat sessions court today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's legal team will move an appeal in a sessions court in Surat on Monday to stay his conviction in a defamation case over his 2019 remark about the Modi surname.

Mr. Gandhi will be present in court. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel and senior leader K.C. Venugopal are likely to accompany him.

Sources said senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi has supervised the process of filing the appeal.

Congress grappling with problems over second list; CEC to meet on April 4

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar has said that aspirants in the party have increased and that there is no confusion. FILE PHOTO

Amidst threats of desertions and rebellions in constituencies that have become highly competitive among ticket aspirants in the Congress, the party's central election committee (CEC) is set to discuss probable candidates for the second list on April 4. The party is likely to release the names before Rahul Gandhi arrives in Kolar on April 9. The Congress, which almost successfully quelled dissidence when the first list of 124 candidates was announced, has found itself in trouble in about 20 seats of the 100 remaining to be announced where aspirants vying with one another have not scaled down their demand.

Dismissing the threats, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar told presspersons on Sunday that aspirants in the party had increased, and that there was no confusion. "Such threats may work in other parties, but not in Congress. The BJP and JD (S) also have problems." He said that AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge will decide on the second list.

However, party insiders say that the second list is important as many of these seats are winnable, yet there are multiple candidates backed by Congress Legislature Party leader and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar. "The reading in the party is that it has to win at least 90 seats from the first list and 30 seats from the second list, which could give it a comfortable majority. However, the intense competition from the two groups has made it difficult to decide on the second list," a party insider said.

The problem could be in constituencies where Congress could gain, and they include Chitradurga, Ballari city, Kalaghatagi, Tarikere, Chikkamagaluru, Gulbarga Dakshin, Sindhanur, Yadgir, Mandya, Maddur, Belur, Basavakalyan, and Pulikeshinagar. In Vijayapura district, S.R. Patil, who has sought ticket from Devara Hipparagi, is being opposed by M.B. Patil, the sources said. Though party leaders have spoken to the two aspirants at Tirthahalli, Kimmane Ratnakar and Manjunath Gowda are still at loggerheads.

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ISRO successfully performs landing test of the Reusable Launch Vehicle

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday successfully carried out the landing experiment of the Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstration (RLV-TD) programme at the Aeronautical Test Range in Challakere, Chitradurga.

An IAF Chinook helicopter was used to drop the RLV-TD and the ISRO executed the landing experiment of the RLV-TD.

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1930 helpline stands between online fraudsters and gullible customers: ₹306 cr. saved since 2021

Vijaita Singh
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

High stakes: The helpline is integrated with the State police control rooms.

Ravinder Malhotra, 55, a Gurgaon-based government employee working in Delhi, got an SMS last November, saying he had an electricity bill of ₹12 due to be paid. His son Ayush, 22, told *The Hindu* that though he usually pays the power bills from Pune, Mr. Malhotra decided to pay the amount. On the landing page link in the SMS, there was a phone number for guidance.

"He called them and they asked him to download an app," Mr. Ayush said. The SMS was from a scammer, and the app allowed them to remotely control Mr. Malhotra's phone. As the ₹12 transaction kept supposedly failing, Mr. Malhotra received other one-time passwords from his bank, all of which the scammer was able to see. Within minutes, he had lost ₹3,28,000 from two bank accounts.

Even as the police in Delhi and Haryana disagreed on the jurisdiction, Mr. Ayush said the payment gateway used by the scammer froze a large part of the money that was siphoned off Mr. Malhotra's account after he made a call to 1930. Mr. Malhotra was able to recover over half of what was stolen.

Mr. Malhotra is among 1.33 lakh people across the country who were able to get stolen money back after reporting the fraud on the toll-free helpline number 1930.

Integrated helpline

The helpline, launched in 2021 by the Union Home Ministry to help victims of financial fraud, is integrated with State police control rooms.

The extent of the financial fraud can be gauged from the fact that during 2021 when the helpline was launched, ₹51 crore was blocked by banks on the request of the police and agencies across the country, but the total amount saved since the launch has risen to ₹306 crore. In Assam, for example, over 10,000 complaints were received over the past 21 months, involving fraudulent transactions worth ₹41 crore. "In around 2,800 cases, we were able to freeze ₹7.1 crore of the money cheated from people, one of the highest recovery rates among other States," Director-General of Police G.P. Singh told *The Hindu*.

If the affected person makes a call within the golden hour (that can range from immediately to 24 hours), the possibility of getting back the money increases. Home Minister Amit Shah said on March 28 that 250 financial institutions and wallets had been linked to 1930, helping recover the money faster.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

RBI likely to hike benchmark interest rate on April 6

25 Basis points. The Reserve Bank of India may go for a hike in the benchmark interest rate in the bi-monthly policy to be unveiled on Thursday. RBI has already increased the repo rate by 250 basis points since May in a bid to contain inflation. PTI

Government to consider a fee to maintain UPI system

0.3 In percentage. The government may consider a fee to fund the infrastructure required for UPI transactions, according to a study by IIT Bombay. The fee of 0.3% can generate around ₹5,000 crore in FY24. PTI

Wheat crops damaged due to untimely rains and hailstorms

5.23 Lakh hectares. The wheat crop estimated to have been damaged are from three States — Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh — due to untimely rains, hailstorms and strong winds, according to officials. PTI

All of the accused in 2002 gangrape and murder case acquitted

26 people. These people were acquitted by a Gujarat court, for want of evidence, in the 20-year-old case of gangrape and murder of more than a dozen members of a minority community in Kalol during communal riots in 2002. PTI

India's power consumption dipped in March

0.74 In percentage. India's power consumption dipped to 127.52 billion units (BU) in March this year for the first time in 31 months due to widespread rains and low temperatures. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The indictment against Donald Trump

Why has a New York grand jury indicted the former president of the U.S.? How has Mr. Trump's attorney Michael Cohen played a part in this ruling? Will the prosecutors be able to charge Mr. Trump for the more serious crime of violating campaign finance laws?

EXPLAINER

Narayan Lakshman

The story so far:

A New York grand jury has indicted former U.S. President Donald Trump on charges relating to the case of hush-money paid to porn actress Stormy Daniels in 2016, prior to Mr. Trump entering the Oval Office. The formal indictment is still under seal, creating ambiguity around the specific charges and the extent of evidence against Mr. Trump. However, media reports and comments by Mr. Trump's attorney suggest that he will be in the dock for passing off the $1,30,000 payment to Ms. Daniels as a business expense, potentially in violation of campaign finance laws.

What is the hush-money case?

In 2006, Stormy Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, is said to have had a consensual sexual encounter with Mr. Trump, who was married to his wife Melania at the time. In 2011, when Mr. Trump was said to be considering the idea of running for president, Ms. Daniels apparently tried to go public with the story of Mr. Trump's extramarital affair with her. However, that story got suppressed after Mr. Trump's attorney, Michael Cohen, threatened to sue. When he actually ran for office in 2016, Ms. Daniels again attempted to approach the media with her story. This time Mr. Cohen reportedly worked out a deal, whereby he paid Ms. Daniels $1,30,000 for her silence and was subsequently reimbursed $4,20,000 in what was written into the books as "legal expenses".

Later, in his congressional testimony, Mr. Cohen, who admitted a guilty plea in August 2018 for violating federal campaign finance laws said, "Mr. Trump directed me to use my own personal funds from a home equity line of credit to avoid any money being traced back to him that could negatively impact his campaign. I did that." Also involved in reimbursing funds to Mr. Cohen from the Trump Organization was its Chief Financial Officer Allen Weisselberg, who is presently in prison for tax fraud. In this backdrop, the hush-money case would essentially seek to directly link Mr. Trump with the false bookkeeping entries, and then charge him with falsification of records.

Polarising charge: Protesters gather outside Trump Tower in New York on March 31. AP

However, under New York state law this would only be a misdemeanour, not a felony, which implies a far lighter sentence for the accused if convicted.

How strong is the case?

In order to prosecute Mr. Trump for a felony, Manhattan District Attorney (DA) Alvin Bragg would have to not only prove that Mr. Trump was culpable for falsified bookkeeping but also show that the business records in question were falsified to cover up an entirely different – and serious – crime. Reports suggest that the crime that will be examined for this charge will be the violation of campaign finance laws, even if there is still a sense of doubt that pervades whether Mr. Trump could be found guilty of this.

In the wake of Mr. Cohen's claim that he had paid Ms. Daniels at Mr. Trump's request, investigators did look into the question of whether Mr. Trump would be criminally liable under federal campaign finance laws. These regulations require that monies received as campaign donations be disclosed transparently and be subject to predefined legal limits. A federal investigation into this matter was closed in 2019, and this suggests that the evidence required to successfully prosecute Mr. Trump in this case might not have been forthcoming at the time.

What are the other options that prosecutors could follow?

Assuming that the Justice Department would take its cues from the Democrat-controlled White House and Senate, and if the latter are keen to attack Mr. Trump politically before he stands for election again in 2024, it is not the hush-money case that appears to be the obvious line of enquiry to pursue in this regard. Far more serious issues exist, which cast doubt upon whether the 45th president behaved in a legal manner or acted within the framework of the U.S. constitution. This includes Mr. Trump's role in inciting the January 6, 2021 insurrection, the financial dealings of the Trump Organization and Mr. Trump's act of withholding classified information after demitting office. The problem is that investigations conducted into these potential violations do not appear to have found a smoking gun or evidence that would be compelling enough for an indictment and a successful prosecution of Mr. Trump.

Meanwhile, unsurprisingly, Mr. Trump has sought to capitalise politically on what he has described as "political persecution" and a "witch hunt" by Democrats. In truth, the case has significant potential to be politically polarising and is viewed by many Americans as a partisan exercise of power. Unless Democrats find compelling evidence in the more serious allegations against Mr. Trump, they may pay a heavy price at next year's elections if they persist with ambiguities of the hush-money indictment.

THE GIST

- A New York grand jury has indicted former U.S. President Donald Trump on charges relating to the case of hush-money paid to porn actress Stormy Daniels in 2016, prior to Mr. Trump entering the Oval Office.
- Media reports and comments by Mr. Trump's attorney suggest that he will be in the dock for passing off the $1,30,000 payment to Ms. Daniels as a business expense, potentially in violation of campaign finance laws.
- Mr. Trump has sought to capitalise politically on this isue and has described it as "political persecution" and a "witch hunt" by Democrats. The case has significant potential to be politically polarising and is being viewed by many Americans as a partisan exercise of power.

Why was the month of March in Mumbai relatively cooler?

How did the warming of the northern Arabian sea lead to cooler and drier air in Mumbai? Will it affect the upcoming heatwave and monsoon seasons?

Raghu Murtugudde

The story so far:

The month of March in Mumbai was relatively cooler and drier than normal. Winds in March usually tend to flow from West Asia to Mumbai, signalling the beginning of a sweltering heat and humidity build-up through May, before the rains arrive in June.

Why was this March cooler and drier?

A study, which this writer was part of, recently reported that West Asia has been warming more rapidly than other tropical land regions. The northern Arabian Sea has also been warming. The combination of this land and ocean warming has enhanced the duration, frequency, and intensity of heat waves over India in the pre-monsoon season. Meteorologists have also blamed the northern Arabian-Sea warming for the increase in heavy rainfall events over northwest India in the monsoon season. Rapid warming over West Asia produces low sea-level pressure locally, which sets up a northward pressure gradient over the Arabian Sea – from the equator to its northern waters. This gradient pulls winds northward, disrupting those that should actually be flowing east, from West Asia towards Mumbai. So the winds came to Mumbai from the north-northwest, bringing cooler and drier air instead of the usual hot and humid air from the desert.

Will this affect monsoons ?

These wind changes created an unusual anticyclone over the Arabian Sea in March. An anticyclone has clockwise ocean circulation in which warm waters converge. As a result, sea surface temperatures warmed by over 1° C just during March. A warmer Arabian Sea in the pre-monsoon season tends to favour a good monsoon. On the other hand, 2023 is expected to be an El Niño year, and an El Niño tends to suppress the monsoon, especially when it follows a La Niña winter, which was the case in 2022.

But before the monsoon, we still need to get through the summer heatwave season. As seasonal land-heating continues into April and May, the southwesterly winds will set out from the equator into the central Arabian Sea. The normal eastward winds from West Asia towards Mumbai should also get stronger. These westerly winds bring heat from West Asia, over the warm Arabian Sea, into India. Winds also sweep in from the northwest over the mountains of Afghanistan and Pakistan, setting up heat waves. The evolution of winds and sea surface temperatures clearly show a rapid warming of the North Indian Ocean, especially the Arabian Sea, which augurs even more heat events.

What will be the consequences?

Reports of unseasonal rain and hail leading to devastating crop damages in the northwest are a preview of what may be in store in terms of heat waves and heavy rain over these parts. Since only about 50% of El Niño years have so far produced a drought over India, we may end up with a 'normal' monsoon. But it is quite likely that warming over West Asia plus the Arabian Sea is going to once again produce heavy rainfall events over northwest India and Pakistan. While Mumbaikars are basking in the unseasonably cool and dry weather, they can also expect heavy rains and flooding this monsoon. Climate models seem confident that there will be an El Niño starting during the monsoon season. The caveat is that an El Niño forecast this early in the year tends to be inhibited by the 'spring predictability barrier': that is, tropical weather tends to be noisy in the spring months, making the prediction noisy as well. As usual, we must hope for the best and prepare for the upcoming rough heatwave and monsoon seasons.

The writer is a visiting professor at IIT Bombay and an emeritus professor at the University of Maryland.

THE GIST

- Winds in March usually tend to flow from West Asia to Mumbai, signalling the beginning of a sweltering heat and humidity build-up through May, before the rains arrive in June. However, this March was cooler and drier.
- Rapid warming over West Asia produces low sea-level pressure locally, which sets up a northward pressure gradient over the Arabian Sea. This gradient pulls winds northward, disrupting those that should actually be flowing east, from West Asia towards Mumbai.
- Reports of unseasonal rain and hail leading to devastating crop damages in the northwest are a preview of what may be in store in terms of heat waves and heavy rain over these parts.

Tour operators in city report uptick in holiday travel bookings

They say there is a 20 to 40% increase in the reservations this summer season when compared to the previous two to three years

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

As the school examination season comes to an end, families are packing their bags to travel. Leaving behind their apprehensions from COVID times, people are enthusiastic to explore new places, say tour operators. There has also been a slight uptick in the number of travellers who prefer flights this summer.

The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) is also expecting good business in the coming months. "February and March are not so good because of examinations, but April, May, and June have always been the travel season," said Jagadeesha G, Managing Director, KSTDC. "We have procured seven new buses and have a tie-up with KSRTC. So, we will be able to cater better to the demand this year."

Holiday revellers at a beach in Karwar. FILE PHOTO

He said while the weekly temple package is expected to get more bookings in the coming weeks, the Kodaikanal package has always been a traveller's favourite during summer.

Coastal areas

Private tour operators have noticed a 20 to 40% increase in bookings compared to the previous two to three years. Despite the sweltering heat, travellers prefer to go to coastal areas like Goa, Gokarna, and Murudeshwar, tour operators said.

There has also been an increase in the number of those heading to the northern part of the country for pilgrimage travel.

"There is adequate demand for tourist destinations in both South and North India. Families prefer to travel to Kashi, Chardham, and other Hindu pilgrimage centres, while couples and youngsters are preferring Kashmir, Kullu, Manali, and Shimla," said Irfan from Elegant Tours and Travels in Hennur.

Most families are still not open to high-budget itineraries. "Even though they would like luxury amenities, people are not willing to spend more on travel yet. Families are asking for more budget-friendly tours," he said.

Saving time

However, some tour operators have seen a few travellers willing to spend the extra rupees on flights as it saves time, especially for long-haul travel. "Even though fares are soaring, they are inclined towards flights due to the convenience," said Rikant Pittie, Co-founder, Ease My Trip.

"Travelling to Uttar Pradesh or Delhi will take almost three days by train whereas it's just three hours by flight. Travelling is to relax, and this way, we will get more time at our destination rather than spending that time on the train," said Prarthana K., who is planning a trip to Ayodhya this summer.

Although many travellers this season are choosing domestic destinations such as Coorg, Ooty, Mahabalipuram, Udupi, Tirupati, Rameshwaram, Puducherry and Andaman, international destinations like Thailand, Maldives, Singapore, and Bali have got some traction too, especially from Bengaluru-based tourists, operators reported.

Further, wellness travel, which picked up after COVID, has remained a trend this year too. "With more people planning trips to wellness destinations, Udupi has emerged as a popular destination preferred by travellers. Accommodations that offer options like yoga, ayurveda, naturopathy, and spirituality initiatives are being preferred, and they are seeing higher bookings," said Sabina Chopra, COO and co-founder, Yatra Online Limited.

INBRIEF

Truck runs over two-wheeler killing woman on the spot

A 29-year-old woman was killed and her mother seriously injured after a speeding truck knocked down the scooter they were riding at Pantarapalya bus stop on Sunday afternoon.

The deceased, identified as Anusha G., along with her mother Vanajakshi, 50, and her seven-year-old son Arya were heading to Rajarajeshwari Nagar. The truck driver, in a bid to overtake, knocked down the scooter and ran over it. Anusha was killed on the spot while her mother Vanajakshi suffered serious injuries on her legs. However, Arya had a miraculous escape with minor wounds. Passersby rushed to their help and called police and ambulance. Sensing trouble, the truck driver abandoned the vehicle and escaped. A case of hit and run has been registered. After the incident, an angry mob pelted stones at the cement-laden truck. They also blocked the traffic for some time. Police resorted to canning to disperse the crowd.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (April 3, Monday), the following explainer is available:

- The indictment against Donald Trump
  bit.ly/trumpindictearrest

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

During summer, route to the voter's heart seems to be water

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Good rains and lake rejuvenation efforts over the last two years have led to a considerable increase in groundwater levels, helping to revive borewells that had even gone dry. This has not only ensured that there is no pressing water scarcity but seems to have also reduced the city's overreliance on water tankers this summer.

However, not all areas are as blessed. Especially those in the outer zones, which are yet to be serviced by the Cauvery water supply, continue to suffer from a water crisis.

Despite CM Basavaraj Bommai, who also holds charge of Bengaluru Development, and MLAs cutting across party lines being keen on Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) completing Cauvery V Stage work before the elections, the project has missed the deadline. While the well-to-do have their borewells and can afford water tankers, it is the poor people in these 110 villages and slum pockets who are left high and dry. But this being an election season, many politicians seem to think the route to a voter's heart is water. Many of these pockets are being served by "free water" supplied by politicians cutting across party lines in an attempt to woo them.

Karnataka Votes 2023

"Most apartments have borewells of their own which are giving a good yield of water this summer, so the demand for tanker water has fallen by over 50%. But many local politicians, cutting across party lines, are giving us bulk business to regularly supply water to some of the villages and low-income group pockets for the next two months. These are not pockets which used to be lucrative for us earlier," Ajay Kumar, a water tanker businessman in Whitefield, said.

However, not all villagers are happy with the arrangement. "This has become the practice every election. They provide us with neither water during summer nor piped drinking water. They think we will be fooled if they provide free water once in five years," rued Nanjundappa, a resident of one such village where a local politician is providing free tanker water this season in South-East Bengaluru.

"Election pressure" seems to be affecting BWSSB as well. "There is pressure from politicians, cutting across party lines, seeking water supply for a longer time and a larger quantum in their areas. The city is drawing 1,450 MLD of water, which is for the existing scheme. Once Stage V is completed, we will draw another 775 MLD to provide water to 110 villages. But, even though Stage V is not yet complete, we are providing drinking water to 55 of the 110 villages rationing water from the existing scheme of 1450 MLD, which has already strained the available water resource," said a senior BWSSB official.

IPL fever

Cricket fans gathered to watch Indian Premier League 2023 match, between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians, at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Sunday. RCB won the match by eight wickets. K. MURALI KUMAR

Control rooms set up

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the model code of conduct kicking in, 24/7 control rooms have been set up in BTM Layout and Rajarajeshwarinagar constituencies where citizens can lodge any election-related complaints. The one at BTM Layout is located at the Revenue officer's office, while the one at Rajarajeshwari Nagar is located at the zonal commissioner's office. Citizens can also call 080- 25525952 for the BTM Layout control room, and 080- 28604331, 080-28604652 080- 28600954 for Rajarajeshwarinagar to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct.

Togalu Gombe artist Veeranna dies in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Nadoja Belagallu Veeranna, veteran Togalu Gombe artist and theatre personality, died in a road accident near Challakere in Chitradurga district on Sunday morning. He was 91.

The car carrying him and his son Hanumanth Veeranna rammed a lorry. The impact was such that the car was thrown afar with great force. The police collected the wreckage from a nearby field, later.

Belagallu Veeranna was declared brought dead at a hospital in Challakere. His son, who suffered serious injuries, is being treated in the Challakere Government Hospital. His condition is critical.

Born into a family of folk artists in Ballari, Belagallu Veeranna joined his father in giving live performances in professional theatre. He continued the family tradition in the folk art form that involves using leather and wood toys to tell tales from epics like the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and folk stories.

However, Belagallu Veeranna improvised on it and introduced stories of Gautama Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi and other modern era leaders through the medium.

Sankey Road flyover plan sets off political slugfest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The proposed flyover to be built on Sankey Road has become a political bone of contention with the Opposition Congress and the BJP indulging in a war of words over the project.

Condemning filing of FIRs against citizens, who protested against the Sankey flyover proposed by the government, Congress leader Priyank Kharge on Sunday, alleged that the BJP government is stifling the voice of public who speak against atrocities, and the project was being pushed for 40% commission.

"FIR has been filed against 60 to 70 residents of Malleswaram for having spoken against Sankey flyover. As many as 22,000 signatures have been collected against the project and widening of the Sankey Road. Around 2,000 children have also requested Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to drop the project," he told presspersons here. He promised that the project will be stopped and cases against public will be withdrawn once the Congress government comes to power. "Action will be taken against police officials who are behaving like agents of BJP," he said.

"If the project is pro-people, why was public opinion not sought? Has it received approval from BMLTA? Where is the DPR for such a big project?" he asked. Pointing out at the NGT order on maintaining buffer zone of 30 mts from the lake, Mr. Kharge asked has there been any study on the impact of the project on Sankey lake. "Has the NGT directives been followed in this case? Government has not released any public documents and nobody is given any information. These are the questions that the citizens have asked."

He said: "When public including, senior citizens and children staged protest on February 19, criminal cases have been filed against them. Using pedestrian footpath has been made a crime. Without any complaint, cases have been registered up suo moto."

Congress candidate from Malleswaram Anup Iyengar alleged that Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwathnarayan misused his position to ensure police filed cases against the public.

Meanwhile, making it clear that the final decision regarding the Sankey Road flyover has been entrusted to the BMLTA based on the public opinion, Dr. Ashwath Narayanan, accused Priyanka Kharge of politicising the issue despite being well aware of the facts.

He maintained that he had no personal interests about the decision on the project. "I have also spoken to NGOs who had been opposing the project and listened to their views. As per their suggestions, the BBMP has entrusted the work of the project to the BMLTA. Despite knowing this, the Congress, which has been sidelined in Malleswaram, is making baseless allegations and acting meaninglessly," he lashed out.

The plan of the project is based on public opinion. But, Congress leaders have started this gimmick as soon as the elections were announced just to achieve their selfish motives, he said, adding that the project has nothing to do with the elections. It has been prepared after scientifically studying the environment. Priyank Kharge has now formed a team against the project just to draw the attention of people, he said.

He said that he has nothing to do with the police registering the case against protestors. "The police have taken action considering the law and order situation," he said.

Row over loud music: Youth attacks family of Army officer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Family members of an Army officer were allegedly assaulted by a group of software engineers from the neighbourhood after they objected to the loud music being played in their house at Vignan Nagar. The incident happened in the early hours of Sunday.

The accused, aged between 26 and 30 identified as Ram Samanth Rai, Basudev Samanth Rai, and Abhishek Singh assaulted Lloyd Nehemiah, 54, who filed a complaint with the HAL police.

The complainant is the brother of Col. David Nehemiah serving in Kashmir.

As per the complaint received by the police, the family members had to confront the neighbours as their mother was unwell and bedridden. Her condition worsened after the attack and receiving treatment at intensive care unit.

The police said that the incident happened around 4.30 a.m. when Mr. Lloyd asked the accused to lower the volume of music which they were playing after returning home allegedly drunk.

The complainant's house is located right opposite to their rented house. Mr. Lloyd requested them to reduce the volume as his aging mother is unwell but went in vain.

Accused hurled abuses

Frustrated with the behaviour of youth, he shouted at them and even communicated to the owner of the house rented by the accused.

It is alleged that the men came out and started to hurl abuses and assaulted him black and blue.

The family members of Mr. Lloyd, who were witnessing the incident, tried to intervene and were also attacked and slapped. They recorded the video of the assault before calling the police control room.

A few neighbours hearing the commotion came out to the rescue of the family and were also attacked by the accused.

Police, who rushed to the spot after receiving information about the fight, found that the men were drunk and escorted the family members home and sent the inebriated men away. Later, the police drove Mr. Lloyd and his sister to the police station to register a complaint. Both underwent treatment at a hospital.

The police said an FIR was being filed and the accused have been summoned for questioning.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, APR. 03		
RISE	06:15	SET 18:31
RISE	16:24	SET 04:25
TUESDAY, APR. 04		
RISE	06:14	SET 18:31
RISE	17:11	SET 05:02
WEDNESDAY, APR. 05		
RISE	06:14	SET 18:31
RISE	17:59	SET 05:38

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	36	21
Bengaluru	34	23

Bengaluru Today
35°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of thunderstorm is likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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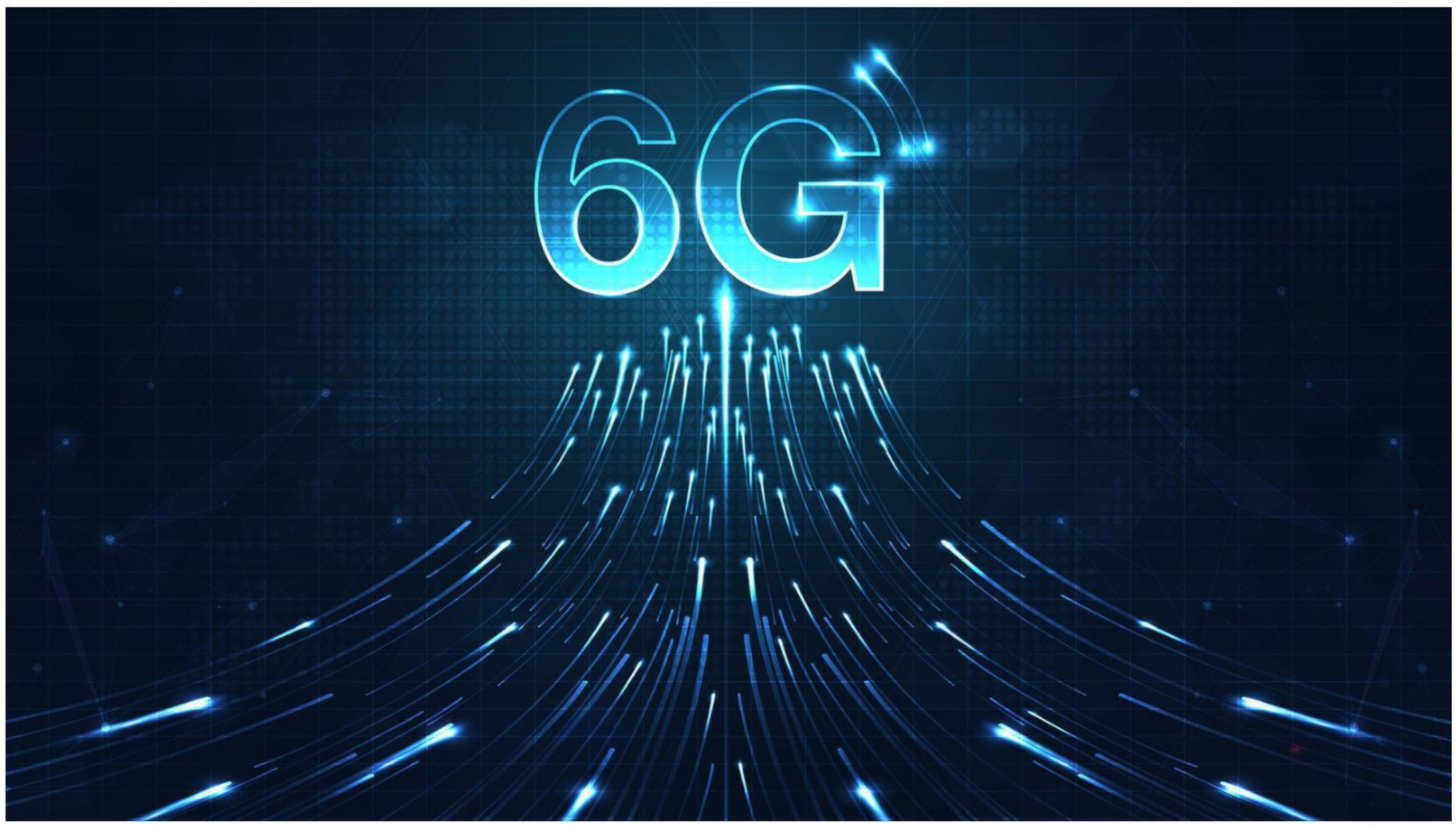

ISTOCKPHOTO

The Bharat 6G vision document: how India plans to lead telecommunication tech

Even as 45,000 villages lack 4G connectivity, and 5G networks are still being built out, the country looks to get a head-start on the next generation of telecommunication technology. The government has indicated that it wants to accelerate India's wireless data consumption

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

On March 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the Bharat 6G Vision Document, a starting point for policymakers and the industry to gear up for the next generation of telecommunication. This is happening even as over 45,000 villages lack 4G connectivity, and 5G networks are still being built out.

Why did the government put out a 6G vision document?

The government has indicated that it wants to accelerate India's wireless data consumption and assume leadership in setting the standards for 6G in the coming years. This may involve everything from encouraging local manufacturing of telecom gear to supporting Indian companies and engineers in international discussions around standardisation. Influence in the latter is key, as telecommunications standards are usually adopted globally.

Another key motivation is the delay in previous generations of telecommunication technology rolling out in India – 5G started rolling out in India years after countries like South Korea and the U.S. had already blanketed their major urban areas with high-speed wireless connectivity. India does not want a repeat of that; the government even says in the 6G vision document that it wants to make sure it grabs 6G "from the oven".

Yet another reason is pure physics: frequencies generally increase in newer generations of networks, but the lower the frequency, the longer a cell signal can travel. With increasing data usage, lower frequencies in 4G networks may not physically be able to keep up with the demand for traffic. The government says so in plain terms: "Right now, the spectrum is congested, particularly in the low and mid-bands where the propagation characteristics are favourable," the vision document says. More data can travel in higher frequencies, which is the basis for 5G architectures where base stations with low coverage took the place of a single larger cell tower.

Beyond encouraging greater participation in standardisation discussions, the vision document says the government will financially support "research pathways" where breakthroughs are most likely to advance connectivity goals, leveraging talent in academia and companies. The government said an "apex body" will be set up to shepherd these groups through roadblocks.

Some indicative goals are to guarantee every citizen a minimum bandwidth of 100Mbps; ensure every gram panchayat has half a terabit per second of connectivity; and blanket the country with over 50 million internet hotspots, with thirteen per square kilometre.

How will 6G be different from 5G?

For consumers, websites will load faster, videos will look better, and files will download faster, as has been the case with every new generation of technology. But we may be hitting the ceiling on how noticeable these improvements can get. Latency, which is the time taken for a data packet to move from one place to another (as opposed to speed, which is the number of such packets that can travel on a connection each second), is not far off from the speed of light itself on existing networks. Businesses and governments are still on the verge of how best to leverage 5G to reap the benefits of high-precision low-latency applications with these new connections. Holograms and robotic surgery are already riding on 5G networks. So how much better will 6G be? Like 5G, it will depend largely on how different groups plan to use the spectrum.

According to the vision document, satellite constellations will join telecom towers and base stations, integrating networks and extending them to rural areas.

Some of the innovations that the government envisions as 6G-powered connectivity boosters are solutions that already exist in other forms. For instance, satellite internet in remote areas is a solution that the government can instantly approve by granting firms like Elon Musk's SpaceX and Bharti Airtel-backed OneWeb the administrative clearance to begin offering their services. Like DTH satellite dishes, setup is minimal as the satellites are already in the sky. However, administrative clearances lag behind.

At least two parts of India have already relied on satellite internet for decades. The Andaman & Nicobar Islands relied on 1Gbps link to connect to the outside world, which is comparable to a single expensive home connection in many Indian cities today. The situation improved vastly after the islands were connected to Chennai by an undersea cable in 2020.

While satellite internet speeds have improved, thanks to innovations like constellations, connectivity goals have as much to do with satellites hundreds of kilometres overhead as they do with the cables beneath the ground and on the seabed.

How are other nations looking at 6G?

As early as July 2021, South Korea planned 220 billion KRW (almost Rs 1,400 crore) in investments into "super performance, hyperspace, and super precision standards," according to the country's Ministry of Science and Information Technology. "As this year marks the beginning of 6G technology development, the focus will be on laying the ground for key original technologies and domestic production of core equipment and components, for example, by identifying technical requirements for key areas of 6G network[s] and designing elementary technologies," the ministry said that year.

Countries have already started working together, with Japan and Germany planning a workshop in April to work on everything from "fundamental technologies to demonstrations".

The Indian 6G Vision paper cites Europe's equivalent of the document, saying that "The overarching Vision is to ensure leadership in strategic areas and establish secure and trusted access to key technologies making Europe a sovereign, independent, and reliable source for 6G public and private network solutions and services."

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Don't be at his beck and call all the time

He was wounded in battle but refused to back down as he avenged his maimed friends

S. Upendran

What is the origin of the expression, 'be at someone's beck and call'? (J. Saraswathi, Kumbakonam)

In this rather old expression, 'beck' is the shortened form of the verb 'beckon'. When you 'beckon' someone, you usually signal or motion to an individual that you would like them to come closer. This could be achieved through several means – a motion of the hand, a tilt of the head, etc. The important thing is that no words are exchanged between individuals – it is a mere gesture. The 'call' in the expression refers to the actual exchange of words. When you are at someone's beck and call, you give your undivided attention to the individual; you observe every gesture he makes and listen attentively to what he says. In the old days, it was a servant's duty to be at his master's beck and call. A master could get his servant to do his bidding in two different ways; he could either 'beck' him or tell him what to do. The idiom 'be at someone's beck and call' has a very negative meaning. It is used nowadays to suggest that one of the participants is being slavishly attentive; he is going out of his way to keep the other individual happy by doing his every bidding.

If you think we're all going to be at your beck and call, you're sadly mistaken.

What is the difference between 'maimed' and 'wounded'? (P. Akhil, Secunderabad)

A wound, whether it be minor or serious, is usually visible to the naked eye. It normally results in a break in the surface of the skin, and as a result, blood oozes out – the amount of blood lost will depend on the severity of the wound. One can talk about a knife wound, a gun-shot wound, etc. Usually, in the case of a wound, there is always a chance of recovery; in most cases, a wound usually heals. One does not always die because of a wound, nor does one lose the use of a limb because of it.

It took the police officer several months to recover from the multiple stab wounds.

A wound need not always be physical, it can be emotional as well. For example, you may intentionally or unintentionally hurt the feelings of your friend by ignoring her at a party. This act of upsetting someone can also be called a 'wound'.

Veena was deeply wounded by her friend's snide remarks.

'Maim', which rhymes with 'aim', 'shame' and 'tame', is a lot more serious than a wound. The word is related to 'mayhem', and when it is used in any context, it suggests extreme violence. When you are maimed, you are crippled. You may lose an arm, a leg, an eye – some part of your body is left permanently damaged; you are usually left disfigured for life.

Ambulances were seen taking the maimed to different hospitals.

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

April 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the release of Akira Kurosawa's last film *Madadayo*. Here's a quiz on the Japanese auteur and his works

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

While Toshiro Mifune and later Tatsuya Nakadai were the leading men in most of Kurosawa's well known films, which actor, who acted in 21 of Kurosawa's 30 films, was his most frequent collaborator?

QUESTION 2

The answer to the above question played a minor role as the head of a police investigative team in this film, released in the year 1963. The film was loosely based on the novel *King's ransom* by a writer who went by the pen name Ed McBain. Name the film and the writer's real name.

QUESTION 3

Of the 30 films made by Kurosawa, this was the only non-Japanese language film, which was based on a memoir by a Russian explorer in Siberia. The weather of Siberia plays an important role in the film which went on to win the Best Foreign Language feature film in the Oscars in 1976. Name it.

QUESTION 4

The film, *Red Beard* was released in 1965 and focussed on the relationship between a doctor and his new trainee besides the pervasive social injustice during the time when the two worked with the poor in the Shogunate period. It also marked a "last" for Kurosawa's films. What was this "last" thing?

QUESTION 5

Sholay, the all time Indian blockbuster film was loosely based on this Kurosawa all-time-classic that spawned several remakes and character-arc-buildup narratives in many films across languages and cultures. Name this iconic film.

Visual question:

The book *Essence of Decision* by Graham. T. Allison explains the Cuban Missile Crisis through an interesting approach that is inspired by this Kurosawa film. What approach and name the film? (behind the scenes filming from that movie in the picture above).

TWITTER/@JAPAN SOCIETY FILM

Questions and Answers to the March 31 edition of the daily quiz:

1. This Chola queen was known for her patronage of the arts and literature. **Ans: Sembiyan Mahadevi**
2. This temple was built by Rajaraja Chola I in the 11th century. **Ans: Brihadeshwara temple**
3. This chola king was arguably the founder of Chola's thalassocracy. **Ans: Paranataka 1**
4. This Chola king built the famous Airavatesvara Temple in Darasuram. **Ans: Rajaraja II**
5. The question should have read which *Venetian* traveler visited the court of Rajendra Chola I. **Ans: Marco Polo**

Visual: These inscriptions describe the evolution of the administrative system through committees called variyams. **Ans: Uttaramerur inscription**

Early Bird: K. Manickavasagam

Word of the day

Ersatz:

an artificial or inferior substitute or imitation (used as both a noun and adjective)

Synonyms: substitute

Usage:

He tried to scam the customers by selling them ersatz products.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/ersatzpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɛəzæts/,

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A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

JD(S) MLA Shivalinge Gowda resigns, likely to join Congress

Three-time Janata Dal (Secular) legislator from Arasikere in Hassan district, K.M. Shivalinge Gowda, resigned from the membership of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Sunday.

He handed over his resignation letter to Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri at Sirsi in Uttara Kannada. The three-time legislator is expected to join Congress, which is likely to field him from Arasikere.

Mr. Gowda, who has been at loggerheads with the party leadership was expected to quit the party since the JD(S) has already announced Banavara Ashok as its candidate from Arasikere assembly constituency. Mr. Gowda had distanced himself from party activities for some time now, and had been issuing statements in favour of Congress.

Flying squad seizes 732 rice bags, 722 food kits in Mysuru

Surveillance teams monitoring the compliance of the election model code of conduct zeroed in on a location in Hanchya abutting the Outer Ring Road in Mysuru and seized unaccounted for rice bags and food kits from a godown of a house late on Saturday.

It transpired that there were 732 rice bags - each bag containing 26 kg of rice - apart from various types of cereals and ingredients meant for cooking. This included cooking oil, soaps, paste etc. and there were 722 food kits.

The authorities said though an explanation was given that it was received as part of CSR and meant for distribution to the poor through a trust, no documents or records were furnished to authenticate the claims.

Women voters in State on the rise, but representation in politics abysmally low

From 55.13 lakh in 1962, the number of voters has touched 2.5 crore this year; but only 1,112 women have contested polls from 1967 till 2018

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Representation of women in the Karnataka Assembly has remained in the single digit since 1967, except in 1989 when 10 women were elected. Women were far better off in the first two elections in 1957 and 1962, with 13 and 18 elected, respectively.

However, the number of women voters has gone up significantly. From 55.13 lakh in 1962, the number of women voters has touched 2.5 crore this year. According to the revised final electoral roll 2023 published on January 5, the total number of women voters have outnumbered men voters in at least 17 electoral divisions out of the 34 in the State.

Karnataka Votes 2023

Too few winners

On the other hand, while a total of 1,112 women have contested polls from 1967 till 2018, a mere 100 (8.9%) have won. Of these while 70 are from the Congress (the highest), 17 are from Janata Parivar (Janata party, Janata Dal, JD(S) and JD-U), and 10 from the BJP. The current Assembly has eight women MLAs - four from Congress, three BJP, and one JD(S).

Although the number of women contestants has been on the rise over the years, former women elected representatives said the number of candidates fielded by various parties is still not in proportion to the rise in the number of women voters.

In 2018, of the 219 women contestants only 36 were from major political parties (the Congress had fielded 15 women while the BJP and the JD(S) had given seats to five and six women, respectively). The remaining were from smaller parties and Independents. This time, in the first list, the Congress has given tickets to six women.

This is hardly a surprise if Karnataka's track record is considered. In 2013, the total number of women candidates in the fray was 170, nearly 6% of the total number of candidates. While the Congress and the BJP gave a mere 10 and seven tickets, respectively, to women, the JD(S) gave only six. The rest were from other smaller parties and Independents.

Winnability is criteria

Former Minister and Congress member Rani Satish said women were lagging behind because party leaders only considered the winnability criterion.

Pointing out that it was getting difficult for women in politics, especially at a time when it has become a game of money and muscle power, she said parties are only bothered about number games. "Parties feel if they stick to principles, it will affect the party's prospects. It is high time all parties take an initiative and decide on a common policy to reserve at least 10% of the total seats to women. Let us not wait for the 33% reservation legislation," she said.

K.S. Vimala, State vice-president, Janawadi Mahila Sangathane, said it is unfortunate that parties do not consider representation of women to be important and essential. "We have heard political leaders say that they may not be able to pass the 33% reservation bill but will follow it internally while giving tickets. But, they don't keep their word although we have several women capable of winning," she said.

No loose comments

The Sangathane has written to all parties in this regard. "We have also demanded that the candidates should not make loose comments that hurt the sentiments of women. Besides, the Election Commission should act against those who try to cash in on religious beliefs of women such as making them swear on their mangalsutra that they will vote for the candidate," Ms. Vimala added.

To woo women voters, all the three major parties have announced women-welfare schemes. While the BJP has announced 'Gruhini Shakti' , Congress has promised 'Grihalakshmi'. The JD(S) has promised to waive loans of women's associations within 24 hours of coming to power. However, it remains to be seen how 'generous' the three parties will be in giving tickets to women.

Fact sheet

2023: Women voters 2,50,94,326

	Women voters	Women who voted	polling %
2018	2,49,10,888	1,78,18,310	71.5
2013	2,13,67,912	1,50,57,361	70.47
2008	19812639	1,25,01,931	63.10
2004	1,89,84,380	1,19,45,017	62.9
1999	1,68,36,520	1,08,72,538	64.58
1994	1,51,23,835	99,62,033	65.87
1989	1,39,85,552	89,60,070	64.07
1985	1,08,90,046	68,72,429	63.11
1983	1,00,78,883	61,13,904	60.66
1978	88,08,540	59,80,287	67.89
1972	73,55,741	41,84,091	56.88
1967	62,16,001	36,19,414	58.23
1962	55,13,993	29,11,216	52.80
1957	Not available		

Number of women contestants and winners

	Condidates	Victors
2018	219	8
2013	176	7
2008	104	3
2004	101	6
1999	62	6
1994	117	7
1989	78	10
1985	108	8
1983	34	1
1978	30	8
1972	20	0
1967	9	5
1962	30	18
1957	24	13

Source: Election Commission of India

Meeting the Minister

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar interacting with people at a 'Meet and Greet' interactive programme at Cubbon Park in Bengaluru on Sunday. Tejasvi Surya, Bengaluru South MP, and P.C. Mohan, Bengaluru Central MP, are seen. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

From Page One

Cong. grappling with problems over second list; CEC to meet on April 4

Among the 100 expected in the second list are also six constituencies that are currently represented by Congress legislators. For Melkote seat, where there is a demand to support the raitha sangha-backed Darshan Puttannaiah, the sources said the party was divided on the issue.

"The Congress is struggling to get the right candidates in several seats that were earlier deserted by its legislators as part of Operation Kamala. In many others, it is trying to balance the social justice factor accommodating candidates from castes that are numerically not strong, thus ruffling aspirants from dominant castes. These smaller castes are also those that are spread across several constituencies that the party cannot ignore," the sources said. Further fielding aspirants, who have joined the party recently or those with money, over the grassroots workers who have worked for decades has also become an issue, the sources said. "Threats of rebels contesting as Independents and handing a defeat to Congress candidates cannot be ruled out."

Meanwhile, among the already announced, sources said that Manohar Tahsildar, a contender from Hangal joined Janata Dal (S) after being denied ticket while the party could face problems in Ranebennur where Prakash K. Koliwad has been named. Similarly, in Rajajinagar where new entrant Puttanna has been named could face serious challenge from partymen. In Bidar South, where former Chief Minister Dharam Singh's son-in-law was denied ticket could emerge as a trouble to the party.

Around 60 seats of the remaining 100 are learnt to have been cleared already. While about 40 seats are posing problems, intense competition is noticed in about 20 seats, the sources said.

Modi's visit to election-bound Karnataka for govt. programme requires ECI nod, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking to reporters at Mysuru airport on Sunday. M.A. SRIRAM

Raising a question over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to election-bound Karnataka for a government programme in Mysuru on April 9, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the Election Commission of India's (ECI) clearance was mandatory for such a visit.

Speaking to reporters at the airport in Mysuru on Sunday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he was not opposed to the Prime Minister's visit. "I am only asking if the visit has been permitted by the Election Commission. If he is coming without obtaining permission from the ECI, it amounts to violation of the election code of conduct," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Mr. Modi is scheduled to participate in a programme to commemorate 50 years of Project Tiger at Mysuru on April 9 before visiting Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Chamarajanagar district.

Pointing out that the election code of conduct applies to everybody whether it is the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister or even an MLA, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the ECI's permission was necessary for Mr. Modi to visit election-bound Karnataka for a government programme.

Replying to queries from reporters, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the second list of Congress candidates would be released after the Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting is held on Tuesday.

The suspense over party nominees in Chamundeshwari, Krishnaraja, and Chamaraja Assembly segments in Mysuru district will also be cleared during the CEC meeting, he added.

With regard to his plans to contest the elections from Kolar in addition to Varuna, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the High Command will have to take a decision in the matter.

He said his son Yathindra would lead his election campaign in Varuna from where he is the sitting MLA. He said he would go to Varuna only to file the nomination as he would be touring other parts of the State.

To a query about rival parties' plans to tie him up to Varuna by fielding a strong candidate, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he was not worried about his opponent in Varuna.

'Vengeful' politics

About reservations, Mr. Siddaramaiah sought to know why the BJP government had not released the findings of the caste census, which had been conducted during his earlier tenure as Chief Minister. The findings of the caste census would not only help the government provide reservations, but also chalk out programmes for backward sections in the society, he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also expressed doubts over the BJP's government's decision to increase the quota for Scheduled Castes from 15% to 17% and for Scheduled Tribes from 3% to 7% standing legal scrutiny without its entry into the 9th schedule of the Constitution. The BJP government is only deceiving the people, he alleged.

He also termed as "vengeful" politics, the Basavaraj Bommai government's move to scrap 2B reservation to Muslims. Though the reservation was given to economically backward Muslims in January 1995 on the basis of the Chinnappa Reddy Commission report, the BJP government had scrapped the same after so many years now contending that reservation could not be provided on religious grounds. "It is clearly a politics of revenge," he said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Of credit and blame

A.H. Vishwanath *(in picture)*, MLC, is known to be an outsider within the BJP and has never let go of an opportunity to take a swipe at it. And so it was when the "credit war'' broke out on who was responsible for the much-vaunted Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Vishwanath cited from documents and averred that the Congress had a role to play in its implementation and spelt out the timeline as to how the project took shape and came to be from the time of Mr. Siddaramaiah as Chief Minister and when the UPA government was at the helm in the Centre. But a rain and a flash flood in Ramanagara led to inundation of the flyover and Mr. Vishwanath hit the streets to protest the "sub-standard'' quality of the road and launched a diatribe against the NHAI which is implementing the project. He not only speculated about corruption but also questioned the need for a road and wondered as to which political party had asked for it in the first place. This, after all the high drama a few days earlier of a spot inspection by the Congress leaders claiming that it was responsible for the infrastructure project to take shape, was ironic to say the least. While it is true that public memory is short, it transpires that a politician's memory is shorter.

Cinema-friendly CM

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai *(in picture)* has earned the reputation of being friendly to the film industry, but this reached a new high during the recently-concluded Bengaluru International Film Festival when a short film titled *Chitraranga Snehi Mukhyamantri* was released. The organisers showered praises on him for his quick and effective responses to the film industry. R. Ashok, Revenue Minister, who spoke after the release of the short film, said: "The way our Chief Minister conducted himself when actor Puneeth Rajkumar suddenly died showed his humane side." Mr. Bommai took pride in declaring that he gave Puneeth Rajkumar Karnataka Rathna award at the same venue and to honour Ambareesh's love for horses, had renamed the Race Course Road after him." However, BIFFes organisers were heard saying in hushed tones after the Chief Minister showed up a couple hours late to the inaugural event, "With our Chief Minister, even if he says that he will come on time, we should assume that he will be at least an hour late."

R. Krishnakumar
Jahnavi T.R.

Hassan ticket: Gowda confabulates with sons, Bhavani

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first family of the Janata Dal (Secular), comprising party supremo H.D. Deve Gowda and his sons, was huddled in a meeting till late on Sunday night to find a solution to the ticklish issue of choosing the party candidate for the Hassan Assembly constituency.

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy told reporters before the meeting that the issue was not big and that it would be sorted out before the party's second list was announced on Monday. He later went into the meeting in which Mr. Gowda, H.D. Revanna and his wife Bhavani Revanna were present. Earlier in the afternoon, the couple met Mr. Gowda to plead their case.

The family members are feuding over the choice of party candidate from the Hassan constituency. While Ms. Bhavani Revanna is on contesting the polls, Mr. Kumaraswamy is favouring H.P. Swaroop, son of former legislator H.S. Prakash.

Mr. Revanna and Ms. Bhavani, who left the meeting venue around 11 p.m., refused to speak to pressmen.

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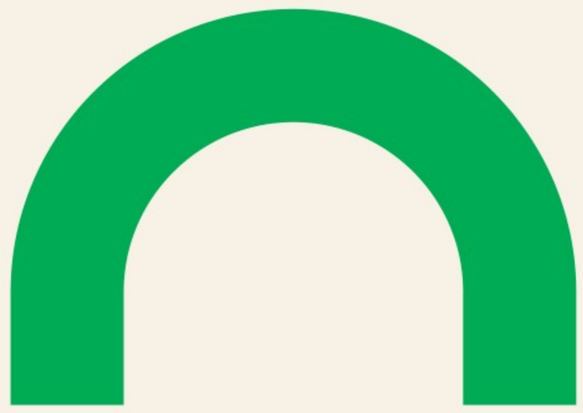

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Cong. promises to relax 50% quota ceiling in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday promised to relax the 50% ceiling fixed on quotas if the Congress came to power in Karnataka.

Addressing a gathering at a demonstration organised by the Congress to 'Save Indian Constitution' here on Sunday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the Congress would return to power in the State and would work towards removing the 50% ceiling fixed on reservation to enable quotas for Dalits and backward classes, including Vokkaligas, Lingayats, and minorities, in proportion to their population. He said the Congress would make efforts towards amending the Constitution to relax the ceiling of 50% on quotas.

United voice: Congress leaders at the 'Save Indian Constitution' demonstration in Mysuru on Sunday M.A. SRIRAM

Reservation

Earlier, he came down on the BJP government in the State for creating a "mess" of the reservation in the State by trying to misuse the same for electoral gains. The government increased the quota for SCs by 2% and STs by 4% more than three years after the Nagamohan Das Committee made the recommendation.

The decision to hike the quota for SC/STs was taken keeping the approaching elections in mind, but the government failed to provide it legal immunity by including the same in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution, he alleged.

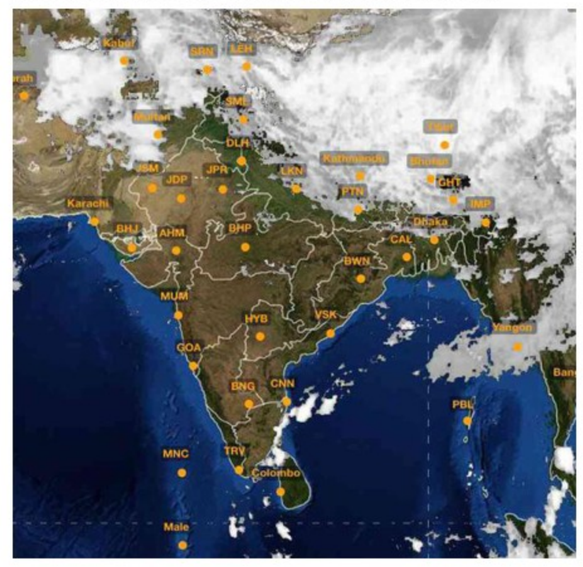
He said the government had done grave injustice to the Muslim community by snatching and redistributing its reservation.

Earlier, AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala said the BJP government in the State was only deceiving the people through its reservation policy.

Former Ministers H.C. Mahadevappa and Tanveer Sait also spoke.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Hailstorm likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely over Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.6	21.1	Kozhikode	—	35.5	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	35.5	22.7	Kurnool	—	40.6	26.3
Aizawl	—	24.5	14.8	Lucknow	—	31.4	18.0
Allahabad	—	34.5	18.2	Madurai	—	38.4	25.3
Bengaluru	—	34.1	23.3	Mangaluru	—	33.0	23.2
Bhopal	—	32.8	18.6	Mumbai	—	31.5	23.9
Bhubaneswar	11.0	29.1	22.5	Mysuru	—	36.0	22.0
Chandigarh	6.0	27.4	13.6	New Delhi	15.0	29.8	14.8
Chennai	—	34.0	28.3	Patna	—	—	19.2
Coimbatore	—	35.4	24.0	Port Blair	—	32.5	23.7
Dehradun	10.5	22.9	12.0	Puducherry	—	34.4	25.6
Gangtok	11.0	15.5	8.5	Pune	—	35.2	17.4
Goa	—	33.0	20.2	Raipur	—	33.8	19.8
Guwahati	29.0	28.4	16.6	Ranchi	14.0	30.2	16.6
Hubballi	—	35.0	18.0	Shillong	6.0	21.0	9.6
Hyderabad	—	35.9	23.5	Shimla	22.0	15.6	5.6
Imphal	8.0	25.4	15.6	Srinagar	10.0	19.0	6.7
Jaipur	—	32.0	20.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.5	25.7
Kochi	—	31.8	26.6	Tiruchi	—	37.7	26.0
Kohima	11.2	14.0	9.7	Vijayawada	—	35.8	27.0
Kolkata	—	27.3	22.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.8	26.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	.17	.24	119	124	
Bengaluru	.04	.12	.12	53	82	
Chennai	.02	.54	.88	34	54	
Delhi	.08	.28	.36	265	180	
Hyderabad	.18	.02	155	113	—	
Kolkata	.19	.20	.05	42	45	
Lucknow	.08	.43	.67	85	102	
Mumbai	.06	130	.83	201	153	
Pune	108	160	113	84	72	
Visakhapatnam	.19	.41	.14	34	80	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Siwan, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 253 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Opposition slams BJP and Home Minister over cow vigilantism

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) hit out at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over cow vigilantism which allegedly led to the death of a person in Kanakapura.

Karnataka Congress tweeted several photos of the accused Puneeth Kerehalli with BJP leaders, including Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, V. Sunil Kumar, Tejaswi Surya, C.T. Ravi and asked, "whether BJP had sponsored this killing to create trouble in an election-bound State". It demanded that the BJP leaders, he was associated with, should also be questioned.

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah came down heavily on the BJP in a series of tweets. "The murder of a young man in Sathanur is a testament to goonda politics in the name of protecting religion. The incompetent Home Minister is directly responsible for the death. Murders in the name of protecting cows do not seem like a mad act by random goons. It looks like an orchestrated act to light up communal flares and polarise the electorate ahead of the elections," he said.

While Mr. Jnanendra hit back at Mr. Siddaramaiah over his criticism of law and order in the State and criticised Mr. Siddaramaiah's handling of the department during his tenure, he did not react to the Kanakapura case. Former CM and JD (S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy tweeted expressing shock over the incident and said this was the direct result of "intolerance and hatred the BJP government has nurtured in the State". He said that the incident had happened during an election season, even as the model code of conduct was in force, only made clear the intentions behind the act.

KPCC President D. K. Shivakumar, in whose constituency the incident has taken place, has not reacted to the incident till Sunday evening.

D.K. Suresh, MP, Bengaluru Rural, condemned the incident and said nobody should take law into their own hands, and when such incidents happen, "we wonder whether there is a government in the State".

Lok Ayukta case likely to come up during third week of April

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The Lok Ayukta case against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on allegations of nepotism and favouritism may come up before the full Bench during the third week of April.

The proceedings in the case may not be further delayed as no fresh investigation needs to be carried out. The pleadings of the parties and relevant documents are on record. Counsel for the parties need to argue their case before a full Bench. The case will be considered on a date convenient for the members of the Bench, indicated Lok Ayukta sources.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, ABHISHEK Shindae J S/o Jaggu Jaganath, R/o A–85, Sector–4, H M T Colony, Jalahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka–560013 Have Changed My Religion From Hinduism to Islam Religion W.e.f–16/1/2023 Also Changed My Name to Ayaan Pasha

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Applications will close by **15.04.2023.**

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-62)
O.S. No. 4541/2022
Hg. 22/06/2023

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 and branch office at : 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Nagaraja Rao K.
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Nagaraja Rao K.
S/o. Kubendrappa, Aged about 46 years, R/at. No. 190, Ground Floor, Honalu 3rd A, Main Road, RHCS Layout, Near Annapoorneshwari Temple, Annapoorneshwari Nagar, Bangalore- 560091.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 6,87,735/-** along with interest at the rate of 13.60% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-62), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **22/06/2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 27th day of March, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru-01

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL, AT BANGALORE (CCH- 21)
O.S. NO. 25836/2022

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001 Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G. ...PLAINTIFF
And
Mr. Srinivasa Murthy M. & Another ...DEFENDANT

Summons to Defendant

1) Mr. Srinivasa Murthy. M. S/o. Mr. Muni Venkatappa, No. 21, Byrathi Bande, Sri Krishna Nagar, Kothanur Post, Poornagan School, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560077.
2) Ms. Saraswathi. A. D/o. Mr. Arsappa, No. 21, Byrathi Bande, Sri Krishna Nagar, Kothanur Post, Poornagan School, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560077.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 10,82,524.64/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Four and Paisa Sixty Four Only)** apart from future interest of 12.53% p.a., in **O.S. No.25836/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-21,** Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **06th day of June, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this the **30th day of March, 2023.**

Order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru- 560 001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560 005

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 13th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-22)
O.S. NO. 25310/2022

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001 Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Promod G, Aged about 46 years, S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa
V/s
Def. No. 2. Ms. IRFANA SUMAYYA SIDDIQUI D/o. Mr.Hasan Siddiqui Khazi Mohammed, Aged 31 years No. 49, 3rd Main Road, Maruthi House Building, Society Layout, BTM 1st Stage, Bangalore- 560029

Summons to Defendant No.2

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,44,089.22/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Fourty Four Thousand Eighty Nine and paisa Twenty Two Only)** apart from future interest of 9.25% p.a., in **O.S. No: 25310/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-22,** Before 13th Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **29th day of May, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this the **18th day of March, 2023.**

By Order of the the Court Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall Bengaluru- 560 001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560 005

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify you that **Mr. Raman Barnwal s/o Pradeep Kumar Barnwal and Mrs. Anita Devi Barnwal,** Permanent Address: Mithlanagar, Birganj 19, Parsa, Madhesh Province, Nepal has married **Sneha Kamalakar Jaiwant d/o of Late. Kamalakar Subray Jaiwant and Mrs. Mangala Gopalakrishna Gourayya,** Permanent address: Near Galimasti Tempal, Hubbali road, Sirsi, Karwar, Karnataka, India. Now they are going to register their marriage via Indian Embassy in Kathmandu Nepal. If anyone has any objection to this marriage, Please contact us within 30 days of this notice.
Contact no: 9905486894

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client is proposing to purchase all that properties bearing Site Nos.6, 7 and 9 (Carved out of Survey No.26/2 and 26/4) situated at Kattigenahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanaka Taulk, morefully described in the schedule herein below (Schedule Property), from its present owners Muniyappa, son of late Kencha Kempanna residing at No.97, Kattigenahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Banglore - 560064 and Ramesh son of late Muninagapaa residing at 96, Kattigenahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Banglore - 560064 (Owner) Any person or persons asserting any rights, title, interest or claim in the Schedule property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the Owners or objecting to such sale to our client, should write to the undersigned within Fifteen days of the issuance of the Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regards to the Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.6,7, and 9 (Carved out of Survey No.26/2 and 26/4) situated at Kattigenahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanaka Taulk, measuring and bounded as under:

Sl. No.	Site No.	Extent Sq.Ft.	East
1.	Site No.6	2428	Private Property
West North South Road Site No.5 Site No.7			
2.	Site No.7	2436	Private Property
West North South Road Site No.6 Site No.8			
3.	Site No.9	2484	Private Property
West North South Road Site No.8 Site No.10.			

Samsher Alam Ansari, Advocate,
No.37, Silver Oak Apartment, 1st Main Road, Kaval Byrasandra, Bangalore - 560032

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. NO. 25833/2022

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001 Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Promod G, Aged about 46 years, S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa ...PLAINTIFF
And
1. Mr. SRINIVASA C S/o. Chandrappa 384, Bettahalasur Cross, Sonnappanahalli, Jala Hobli, Chikkajala, Bangalore- 562157
2. Ms. SINDHU N D/o. Nagaraj 53, Water Tank, Sonnappanahalli, Hunasamaranahalli, Bettahalsur Bangalore- 562157 ...DEFENDANTS

Summons to Defendant

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 19,08,579.2/- (Rupees Ninteen Lakhs Eight Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Nine and paisa Two Only)** apart from future interest of 12.53% p.a., in **O.S. NO: 25833/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-58,** Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **8th day of June, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this **28th day of March, 2023.**

By the Order of Court Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall Bengaluru- 560 005

FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560 001

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-64)

O.S. No.7077/2021
Hg.23/05/2023

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd., No.1, Shobha Pearl, 2nd Floor, M.G. Road, Commissariat Road, Bangalore- 560025 and branch office at : 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 through its Authorised representative ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Purushotham
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
1. Mr. Purushotham, S/o. Siddaramappa, Aged about 35 Years, Residing at 255/A, Jala Hobli, Near Andhra Bank, Bengaluru- 562149

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs.10,18,221.39/-** along with interest at the rate of 15% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the City Civil & Sessions Judge, at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-64), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **23/05/2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **24th day** of **March, 2022** at Bangalore.

By Order of the Court Assistant Registrar Hon'ble City Civil Court Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

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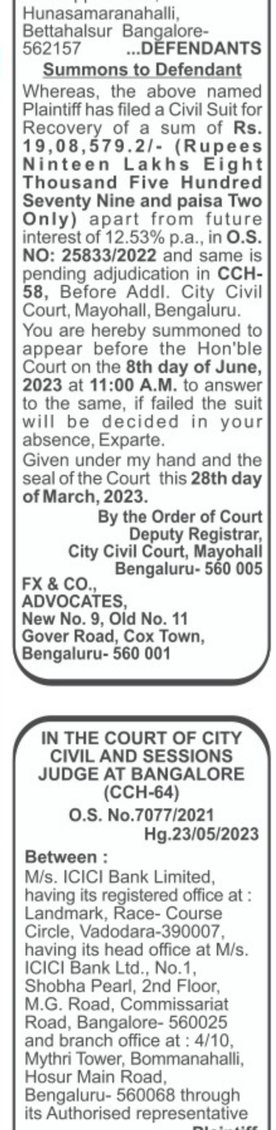

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-62)
O.S. NO. 6948/2022
Hg. 22/06/2023

Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at and branch office at : 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative. Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Chandra Mohan Reddy K.
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Chandra Mohan Reddy K. S/o.Reddeppa Reddy Korru, Aged About 45 Years, R. at No. 39, Syamalanilaya, 3rd Main Road, 2nd Block, Vijaya Lakshmi Layout, Ayyappanagar, Bangalore-560036.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 4,22,905.19/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-62), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **22/06/2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **27th day** of **March, 2023** at Bangalore.

By Order of the Court Assistant Registrar Hon'ble City Civil Court Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, AT BENGALURU

4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Raja Bhavan Road, BENGALURU- 560 001

IN THE MATTER OF O.A. NO. 1237/2021

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.
...APPLICANT
AND
Sri AZ Impex and others
...DEFENDANTS

DEFENDANTS :
a) Sri AZ Impex, No.61/2, Sree Buddamma Chikkanna Industrial Estate, Lakshmipura, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru- 560 097. Represented by its Proprietrix PAN No. CYTPS1434D.
b) Smt. Sarrith Ravindhra Wife of Ravindra Lakshmi Narasimha Proprietrix of Sri AZ Impex, No.311, D-2, SFS 407, 1st Main Road, Yelahanka New Town, 5th Cross, Yelahanka, Bengaluru Karnataka- 560 064 PAN No. CYTPS1434D. Phone No.9060483151 Email: narasima46@gmail.com
c) Ravindra Lakshmi Narasimha Son of H. K. Lakshmi Narayana, No.311, D-2, SFS 407, 1st Main Road, Yelahanka New Town,5th Cross, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560 064 PAN No. AIVPN1416A Phone No.9972238131 Email: narasima46@gmail.com

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 21,39,211/- (Rupees Twenty-One Lakhs Thirty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Eleven Only)** together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.
You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on 24/07/2023 at 11.00 A.M. in person or by pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this 20th day of March, 2023.

By Order of the Tribunal Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal-II Bangaluru

BUSINESS OFFERS

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-62)
O.S. NO. 6948/2022
Hg. 22/06/2023

Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at and branch office at : 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative. Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Chandra Mohan Reddy K.
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Chandra Mohan Reddy K. S/o.Reddeppa Reddy Korru, Aged About 45 Years, R. at No. 39, Syamalanilaya, 3rd Main Road, 2nd Block, Vijaya Lakshmi Layout, Ayyappanagar, Bangalore-560036.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 4,22,905.19/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-62), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **22/06/2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
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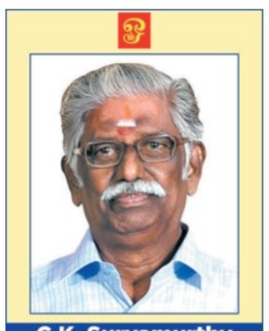
By Order of the Court Assistant Registrar Hon'ble City Civil Court Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



C.K. Suryamurthy
Asst. Exec. Engr., CPWD (Retd.)
(3rd March 1937 – 26th March 2023)
Our beloved father **C.K. Suryamurthy** departed for his heavenly abode on Sunday March 26, 2023 in **San Diego, USA.**
We seek the Almighty's blessings for his departed soul.
Our family humbly requests your prayers for our father.
Sincerely,
Jayalatha, Jayachandar & our families

M.B.NAGARAJAN (85 yrs)
Former Executive Director, LIC
Passed away peacefully on 31.03.2023
We miss you!
Prema Nagarajan
Subramanian & Radhika,
Raghuram & Uma
Divya, Ankur, Achintya
Prema: 9884513737

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my client **M/s. DSR Constructions** represented by its Authorised Signatory Sri.K.S. Satyanarayana Reddy, have lost the below mentioned Original Documents at the time of Relocating of their office premises;

S.NO	DOCUMENT NAME	REG.DATE	DOCUMENT NUMBER	REGISTRATION OFFICE
1	Sale Deed	16.04.2009	BDH-1-00137/ 2009-10, Book I, stored in C.D.No. BDHD21	the Sub-Registrar, Bidarahalli, Bengaluru
2	Sale Deed	30.04.2009	BDH-1-00261/ 2009-10, Book I, stored in C.D.No. BDHD22	the Sub-Registrar, Bidarahalli, Bengaluru
3	Sale Deed	23.05.2009	BDH-1-00452/ 2009-10, Book I, stored in C.D.No. BDHD22	the Sub-Registrar, Bidarahalli, Bengaluru

pertaining to Sy. No.21/3 of Seegehalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. If anybody has found the same, please contact/return it to the below mentioned address:

S. NAGATHRIJALA, M.B.A,L.L.B, Advocate,
BBMP Khatha No.639/6456/1,
Survey No.68 (P), 4th Floor, Block C,
DSR TECHNO CUBE, Thubarahalli Village,
Varthur Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 066.

Place : Bengaluru
Dated: 03.04.2023

EDUCATIONPLUS

Keep an open mind

Madhumitha Srinivasan
madhumitha.s@thehindu.co.in

Being open to new opportunities is the way to succeed in today's rapidly changing world, says Pramath Raj Sinha, the founding dean of the Indian School of Business and founder Ashoka University and Harappa Education

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Making educational choices "can often feel like trying to hit a moving target. Many of the old assumptions about education and careers are becoming outdated and our educational institutions are struggling to provide young people with the support and guidance they need to thrive in this rapidly changing environment," writes Pramath Raj Sinha in his new book, *Learn, Don't Study: A Guide for Students and Parents.*

Through the book, the founding Dean of the Indian School of Business, and founder of Ashoka University and Harappa Education, hopes to address the question: "What should I study to best prepare myself for success in today's working world?"

According to him, there is no single answer, but one needs to develop a certain mindset. This is the conclusion he came to after interviewing an "inspiring group of individuals who have navigated (and are navigating) the modern career landscape" such as media giant Uday Shankar, interior designer Anita Mackenzie, economics graduate Ambika Nigam and serial entrepreneur Srikant Sastri, among others.

Excerpts from an interview:

What prompted you to write this book?

Over the decades, lots of young people have been coming to me for advice. The most common question is, "What should I do next?" So I decided to address this through a series of essays giving examples of others who have made these choices — real people from my life — and add my own thoughts and ideas.

What was the common factor among those you interviewed?

Interestingly, what they studied has no direct relation to what they are doing now. They all started out a bit confused in the early stages of their life — graduate studies or first job. Ultimately, they all "*squiggled*" their way into doing what they enjoyed. This comes from being open to newer opportunities. Not restless or constantly looking out, but simply by not being close-minded. Youngsters do not realise this. Instead, they obsess over what course they should do. Other common traits were resilience, tenacity, hard work, and being comfortable with uncertainty.

You write about the need for agility and adaptability for students. Is this also true for educational institutions?

Traditionally, educational institutions have been behind in keeping up with the times. To make up for it, what they can do is provide students with more flexibility and give them a chance to discover new things. This doesn't mean you have to change your curriculum, start a new school, or hire new faculty. This is possible to implement within the existing structure. If you are an Arts student who wants to pursue Computer Science, take up courses that prove you can do it. It is also okay to find out that you are not good at it. It is okay to fail. That's what resilience is. That's part of education and learning. The learning will be "My choices are not always perfect. I will survive".

Which skills do you feel technology cannot replace?

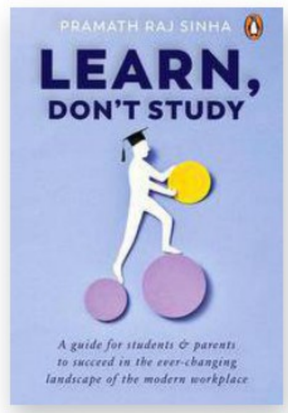
Technology can provide the first draft version of many solutions that people are looking for. So, many of those skills required in quickly putting together research or a memo on a topic will be replaced. But what will not is the skill of discerning if there are inaccuracies or if the information is too generic, or deciding how to further develop this information beyond the data available on the Internet. Another irreplaceable skill is critical thinking or, rather, "critical ignoring". What are you going to ignore where so much information is thrown at us? Some of the core skills that we will need, regardless of technological evolution, are critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, collaboration, and self-awareness in your leadership — knowing your strengths and weaknesses.

How can students zero in on what they are good at or what they want to do?

By trying many different things. What you should do is not going to come from an assessment: answer 20 questions, and oh, you can be a lawyer! Everyone has access to the same curriculum. What will distinguish you will be multiple experiences and dots that will eventually connect. But you cannot connect the dots if you don't pick them up. Volunteer, do odd jobs, take up a project through a personal reference, and take the initiative. Parents, in turn, should encourage their children to try new things. And importantly, don't give up on your passions. Pursue them because they will likely contribute much more in the long run to your success than what you study in school or college.

What are the two mistakes youngsters make in the transition from college to first jobs?

First, they focus too much on salary. They don't look at the quality of learning, support, or responsibility that the job or the company offers. The first job is critical in one's career; it sets the expectation and tone for how you do your work, teaches you valuable skills and helps you understand your strengths and weakness. The second mistake is becoming restless. They have FOMO about what others are doing, whether they are doing better, and wondering if they deserve better. That destroys confidence. Show your confidence in taking on new challenges and tasks, and learn. Once you prove yourself, bigger opportunities will naturally come to you.



SQUIGGLY CAREER

Coined by Sarah Ellis and Helen Tupper, two career development consultants, a "squiggly career" refers to a non-linear career path characterised by frequent shifts in direction, pivots, and a willingness to try new things. In a squiggly career, individuals are more likely to prioritise personal growth, meaning, and fulfilment over the pursuit of a particular title or salary. They may also be more open to taking risks, pursuing multiple interests simultaneously, and developing a diverse range of skills.

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Ph.D. Degree: Course work and supervision will be at TAPMI Manipal and Ph.D. degree to be awarded by Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

Last date for receiving applications: May 01, 2023 | Start date for the Programme: August 01, 2023

For detailed information on the application and admission process, please see: https://www.tapmi.edu.in/programs/fellowships/ and for any additional enquiries, write to: phd.tapmi@manipal.edu

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A very gifted student of Vishwa Vidyapeeth, Aditi Simha, won the Gold Medal in the Bhagavad Geeta memorization competition, at the national level. The competition was held at Kashi Banaras Hindu University, where she has hoisted the flag of Vishwa Vidyapeeth, at the 60th National All India Sanskrit Competition, which was organized by the Central Sanskrit University New Delhi.

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Beyond customs

Govt. must find innovative solutions to help people with rare diseases

For the state, there can be no rest; vigil should be constant, and the endeavour should be to address issues relating to the public's welfare continually. A classic exposition of this principle is the Centre's announcement providing full exemption from basic customs duty for all drugs and food imported for treatment of rare diseases listed under the National Policy for Rare Diseases (and anti-cancer drug Pembrolizumab). This adds benefits, beyond those already incorporated in the policy (originally formulated in 2017) finalised just under a year ago. In order to avail this exemption, the individual importer must produce a certificate from specified authorities. Medicines generally attract basic customs duty of 10%, while some categories of life-saving drugs/vaccines get concessions or exemptions. Exemptions have already been provided to specified drugs for the treatment of Spinal Muscular Atrophy or Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Rare diseases are a group of diseases that occur infrequently in the community and as such patients are disadvantaged by the lack of volumes that usually spur pharmacological companies into producing life-saving medicines. While some of these diseases do not have any described treatment methodologies, wherever treatment exists, the drugs have to be imported and costs are prohibitive, putting it out of the reach of most people. The NPRD estimates that for a child weighing 10 kg, the annual cost of treatment for some rare diseases may vary from ₹10 lakh to more than ₹1 crore per year, with treatment being lifelong and drug dose and costs increasing with age and weight. The duty exemption will lead to substantial savings for patients. Organisations lobbying for support for patients with rare diseases have welcomed the move which will grant much needed relief to patients and their families; a ray of hope in an otherwise bleak treatment scenario.

While rare diseases are defined by their infrequent occurrence in the population, the sheer number of diseases (estimated between 7,000-8,000 conditions; 450 of them have been reported from hospitals in India), and the number of people with some form of rare diseases in India (an estimated 100 million) make it a problem that cannot be ignored. When the NPRD was released, it underlined the magnitude, and specified that demands could only be considered in the context of the available scarce resources that would have to be used judiciously. While striking a note for the goal of affordable health care, the government must ensure that its directions are followed in full, besides staying the course to innovate solutions for this category of patients.

Long on intent

The aspiration of the new foreign trade policy seems ambitious

India's long-delayed, refreshed Foreign Trade Policy has finally been unveiled. The new policy, announced on Friday by the Union Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles Piyush Goyal, has made bold to set an ambitious target of reaching $2 trillion in total exports (goods and services combined) by 2030. With the government currently estimating exports to have crossed $760 billion in the fiscal year just ended on March 31, the policy projects a near tripling in outbound shipments of goods and services over the course of seven years. And when one compares this growth goal with the 75% expansion achieved over the last seven years since 2016, the magnitude of the aspiration suggests vaulting ambition. To be sure, the last three years have been unprecedented, with first the COVID-19 pandemic and then Russia's invasion of Ukraine disrupting global trade momentum. Still, the last three years, when India put its trade policy reset on hold, also provided policymakers a unique opportunity to take a fresh approach to delineating the contours of its trade policy goals. The end result is long on statements of intent. The National Trade Facilitation Action Plan, for instance, lists aims to achieve that are essential and laudable but in no way novel: an improvement in the ease of doing business through reduction in transaction cost and time, a reduction in cargo release time, and a paperless regulatory environment.

In a nod to India's WTO obligations, the shift from incentives to an enabling regime of duty remission and exemption schemes to facilitate duty-free imports of inputs required for boosting exports has been near complete. Most of these schemes including the RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products), RoSCTL (Rebate on State and Central Taxes and Levies), AA (Advance Authorisation) and EPCG (Export Promotion Capital Goods) have been around for a while and the policy has just tweaked some of the terms of implementation to improve adoption. In the key sector of apparel and clothing, for instance, the facility of self-declaration has now been offered across the board to all exporters. A one-time amnesty has also been offered, giving exporters more time to avail of both the AA and EPCG schemes. And acknowledging the substantial surge in online trade, the policy devotes a whole chapter to 'Promoting Cross Border Trade in Digital Economy' including moves to facilitate the establishment of dedicated e-commerce export hubs. Still, with global trade largely becalmed and the services sector facing headwinds of uncertainty in the key western markets, the FTP falls short in offering more substantive and sectorally targeted measures as well as a well-defined road map to meet the 2030 export target.

India needs a national programme on autism

Bhismadev Chakrabarti

is Professor of Neuroscience and Mental Health at the University of Reading, U.K. He is a Visiting Professor of Psychology at Ashoka University, India, and is Principal Research Adviser to the India Autism Center, Kolkata

One of the most frequent questions I faced at academic conferences as soon as people realised that I was an Indian researcher working on autism was this: 'How many children in India have autism?' At this point, India did not have any systematic estimates of autism prevalence. My collaborators and I set out to answer this question, and found ourselves telephoning a number of government hospitals in India. We were looking for available records of the children who came to them, and were eventually given a diagnosis of autism. In the absence of a central medical registry, this method seemed reasonable to estimate the prevalence of autism – and had been successfully used in some other countries.

Unfortunately, it did not work. None of the hospitals kept any records of how many children got a diagnosis of autism. It made us change our strategy from focusing on hospitals to schools. Instead of relying on existing medical records from hospitals, we translated and validated widely used autism assessment tools – and used these to estimate the prevalence of autism in nearly 12,000 schoolchildren. Interestingly, none of the children who met the diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum in our study had a prior clinical diagnosis. All of these children were in mainstream schools, and reported facing more challenges than their counterparts. There have been a few other prevalence estimates since our initial study, and a conservative estimate based on pooling the results from different studies suggests that well over one crore Indians are on the autism spectrum.

Cultural differences and diagnosis

While biochemical pathways involved in core autism symptoms are unlikely to be different between cultures, there are notable cultural differences in who gets a clinical diagnosis of autism. The majority of children with an autism spectrum diagnosis within the United States and the United Kingdom are likely to be verbal, with average or higher than average IQ, and attending mainstream schools. In contrast, a significant majority of children in India who get a clinical diagnosis of autism often also have intellectual disability, and limited verbal ability.

This difference is likely to be driven by a range of sociological factors, such as access to appropriate clinical expertise, the allowance of provisions for inclusion in mainstream schools, as well as availability of medical insurance coverage for autism interventions. It raises the question of why one chooses to get an autism diagnosis in the first place. If a clinical diagnosis is unlikely to open doors to appropriate services and support provisions, and is instead going to add to societal stigma, then rolling out a nationwide screening and diagnostic programme for autism across all schools is not likely to be useful. Even if it were theoretically possible to do so, how we assess autism presents its own set of challenges.

> With well over one crore Indians in the autism spectrum, the point of early interventions being associated with the best outcomes needs to be underscored — World Autism Awareness Day was on April 2

Autism is assessed behaviourally, and behavioural assessment tools (i.e. questionnaires or interviews with professionals) are the starting point for all research and clinical work on autism. Yet, most of the widely used autism assessment tools have limited availability in Indian languages. While some of the more widely used tools have been translated and validated locally, recent years have seen a rise in the development of indigenous autism assessment tools.

The plethora of these tools can create challenges in comparing across them. Beyond questionnaires and interviews, observational measures (e.g. where individuals are asked to perform a task) can contribute meaningfully to assessing autism-related features. Observational measures rely less on verbal information, and more on task performance, and are thus more easily translatable across cultures and settings. A combination of questionnaire/ interview measures alongside observational measures is ideal for assessing autism. Crucially, assessment must not remain limited to measures of behaviour alone; autism is increasingly viewed as a systemic condition. Greater focus on areas that have historically been under-researched in autism, such as sleep, diet, sensory symptoms, and immune function need to be included within routine assessments.

Demand and supply in India

While considering the components of assessments we also need to consider the assessors. Most available autism assessment tools need to be administered by a specialist mental health professional. According to the latest estimates, India has less than 10,000 psychiatrists, a majority of whom are concentrated in big cities. While the number of mental health professionals continues to grow, the current gap between demand and supply cannot be met directly by the specialists alone. This gap is not relevant for behavioural assessments alone but also for providing psychological interventions. Parallel efforts to widen the reach of diagnostic and intervention services through involving non-specialists, similar to a stepped-care model for psychological therapies, is required in order to bridge this chasm. To this end, emerging lines of evidence suggest the feasibility of such an approach for both autism identification and intervention in an Indian context. Two pillars for such an approach to succeed are the availability of a suitable non-specialist workforce (e.g. Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)/Anganwadi workers, parents/caregivers) and the appropriate digital technology (e.g. apps, smartphones) that can capture both self/caregiver report as well as observational data.

A causal chain typically links diagnostic assessments and interventions. Very often, a clinical diagnosis serves as a gateway for interventions and services, with some parents having to wait for years, or travelling across the country, to get a confirmed diagnosis. Delays in interventions can be costly for neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism, given the importance of critical periods in brain development. Early interventions are associated with the best outcomes. As such, it is vital to develop a pipeline of routine assessments for key domains of neurodevelopment (example, social, motor, sensory, cognitive) that can then lead to parent/non-specialist assisted behavioural interventions, irrespective of the final formal diagnosis.

Within such a framework, if a child presents with social behavioural difficulties s/he could be referred to a parent/non-specialist assisted programme on evidence-based actionable strategies in social skills development. This child might eventually get a clinical diagnosis of Autism or Social Communication Disorder but would have already benefited from an early intervention. There is a growing evidence base for simple behavioural interventions that parents/caregivers can be trained on, that can have a positive impact. The risks for administering these interventions to a child who may not necessarily need them are significantly lower than those of not administering them to someone who could benefit. Sustainable public health pathways need to be developed such that they do not depend critically on a confirmed diagnosis from a specialist.

Need for an all-India programme

The overarching need of the hour is to develop a national programme on autism, to link researchers, clinicians, service providers to the end-users in the autism community in India. A programme of this scale needs three essential components that are joined up: assessment, intervention, and awareness. Research needs to focus on developing and refining appropriate assessments, as well as designing efficient implementation pathways. Simultaneously, the clinical and support service workforce needs to be expanded by training non-specialists such that a stepped-care model can be rolled out effectively across the nation. Finally, large-scale initiatives to build public awareness can serve to reduce stigma associated with autism and related conditions. Crucially, a national programme needs to be informed by consultation with different stakeholders, with a primary focus on the end-users within the Indian autism community.

No 'sayonara' for Japan in Indo-Pacific geopolitics

Harsh V. Pant

is Vice-President for Studies and Foreign Policy at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi and Professor at King's College London

Premesha Saha

is a Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation

The visit by the Japanese Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida, to India, in March 2023, during which he engaged with his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, on global and bilateral issues, focused on cooperation between the G-7 and the G-20 (Japan and India hold their presidencies, respectively). Besides this, Mr. Kishida also unveiled "Japan's New Plan for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP) and exchanged views about deepening the "Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership".

Japan's FOIP clearly shows that Japan wants to reinforce the idea that it has been the main champion of the FOIP concept, and Mr. Kishida's speech underlined that given the current geopolitical landscape with the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, growing Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea, East China Sea, the Indian Line of Actual Control and the Taiwan Straits, there is a need to give a fresh push and momentum to this concept. The New Plan for the FOIP lays stress on the need to uphold the rules-based order and respect each other's territorial sovereignty, with Mr. Kishida warning that "at a time when the international community is at a historical turning point, I would like to clarify the concept of FOIP once again to propose a guiding perspective to be shared by the international community which, if left unchecked, could drift towards division and confrontation".

Challenges before the Indo-Pacific

Japan's new policy focuses on the numerous challenges facing the Indo-Pacific such as the Ukraine war, food security, and cyber space in addition to issues such as ensuring the freedom of the seas, and connectivity among others.

Another challenge which has been highlighted is the lack of a united stand on "what the international order should be" – the differing position of countries on the Russia-Ukraine war has brought this issue to the fore. But there is a firm belief that the FOIP will be able to work with and embrace diverse voices and create an atmosphere of cooperation and collaboration rather than division and confrontation. For attaining this atmosphere of cooperation, 'rule-making through dialogue' should be encouraged. The fact that Japan under the FOIP should work alongside other like-minded countries in the region has been mentioned, with India being billed as an 'indispensable' partner.

> A Japan that is deeply invested in Indo-Pacific stability and prosperity is reassuring

The foundation

There is a realisation that Japan needs to do much more in the region, and towards this, 'four pillars of cooperation' under the new FOIP have been outlined: principles for peace and rules for prosperity; addressing challenges in an Indo-Pacific way; multi-layered connectivity; and extending efforts for security and safe use of the "sea" to the "air".

In the first pillar, it has been pointed out that vulnerable countries usually suffer the most if there is an erosion in the rule of law. Therefore, Japan wants to engage in economic development programmes such as promoting the implementation of the G-20 Principles for "Quality Infrastructure Investment".

Under the second pillar, Mr. Kishida talked about "expansion of cooperation for the FOIP by incorporating realistic and practical projects in a wide range of areas, such as climate change, food security, global health and cybersecurity". Japan has been working for long on connectivity projects bilaterally with many countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

Under the third pillar, the three areas identified for introducing more such projects are Southeast Asia, South Asia and the South Pacific/Pacific Island countries. Japan has made a new commitment of $100 million towards the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund; it will promote the Bay of Bengal-Northeast India industrial value chain concept in cooperation with India and Bangladesh, and the new Palau International Airport Terminal project (an archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean) supported by Japan has also taken off.

Under the fourth pillar, Japan will help in strengthening the capabilities of maritime law enforcement agencies in other countries. Towards these objectives, Japan will implement the "strategic use of Official Development Assistance (ODAs)", revise the Development Cooperation Charter and set forth guidelines for ODA for the next 10 years, and introduce an "offer-type" cooperation and a new framework for "private capital mobilization-type" grant aid. Mr. Kishida also announced that Japan would "mobilize" a total of more than $75 billion in public and private funds in the Indo-Pacific region by 2030 in infrastructure development.

Tokyo's role

The primary goal of Mr. Kishida's visit was to reinforce the centrality of Japan in the emerging geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific. In the past, he had stated that "Ukraine today may be East Asia tomorrow", which shows Japan's concern about growing Chinese belligerence in the region. Mr. Kishida's emphasis on the need to uphold a peaceful and a rules-based international order, and his putting forward policies and mechanisms under the new FOIP to help stabilise the regional order amidst the Ukraine war and the differing positions of countries on this conflict goes on to show that Japan is preparing itself for any unforeseen threat to its own as well as regional security. A Japan deeply invested in Indo-Pacific stability and prosperity is good news indeed for India and the wider region.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Still a struggle

The temple entry movement, the use of adjoining streets for Dalits in Vaikom, Kerala, and E.V.R. Periyar's seminal role should be remembered. However, it is worth noting that similar movements were taking place in Tamil Nadu also, with the Madurai Meenakshi-Sundareeswarar temple at the top of the list. Here, the movement to open the temple gates to Dalits and Nadars was spearheaded by Madurai A. Vaidyanatha Iyer, who persisted despite facing excommunication from his community.

His courageous stance earned him the moniker "The Real Periyar".

In fast forwarding to the current status of Dalits in Tamil Nadu, it is clear that the Vaidyanatha Iyer and E.V.R. reform movements have suffered setbacks. Ugly incidents like Vengaivayal in Tamil Nadu, the building of separation walls to segregate the use of public right of ways, and abuse by the police that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe detainees face are the new normal (Opinion page, 'Datapoint', March 30).

A principal reason that the Dravidian majors are unable to address this issue openly is the fact that both their membership are dominated by intermediate castes, who still resent the inclusion of Dalits on an equal basis in life.

G. Parameswaran,
Coimbatore

The Pattanam mystery

How the people of Pattanam warded off the regressive influences of the caste system is definitely a mystery (Page 1, April 2). It is possible that all the people were generally well off due to flourishing business and led busy, secular and peaceful lives.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

Cheetah births in Kuno

It was very pleasing to see the standalone picture (Some editions, March 30), of the four cheetah cubs of Siyaya, one of the Namibian cheetahs that was relocated to the Kuno National Park in September last year. The cubs would little know or care whether they live in Namibia or India as long as they find comfort and safety with their mother!

Akshita Mishra,
New Delhi

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Same-sex marriages: A matter for Parliament

G. S. Bajpai

is the Vice-Chancellor at National Law University Delhi

Ankit Kaushik

is an Assistant Professor at RGNUL, Punjab

The Supreme Court, in *Supriyo v. Union of India*, has referred the matter relating to legalisation of same-sex marriages to a Constitution Bench. Unlike the matter pertaining to decriminalisation of Section 377, which the Central government had left to the Court to decide, the affidavit submitted by it in the present case opposes such legalisation. The Centre's stance has come under fire from sections of civil society, advocates, academics and scholars. Let us examine its line of reasoning.

The core of the Centre's argument is that same-sex marriage does not find any recognition within Indian traditions, ethos, culture and the societal conception of the institution of marriage. It has been argued that marriage is a sacrament between a biological male and a biological female to form a holy union to conceive children. Consequently, it is argued that Parliament, and not the Court, is the right institution to debate and decide if same-sex marriages should be legalised.

The language of rights

Since it is unlikely that the Court will acquiesce to or reject the Centre's stance without evaluating the same on its own merits, it is crucial to understand the foundational basis for this argument. Multiple authors have addressed the Centre's argument through legal lenses, such as by saying that it is a duty of the Court to address the violations of fundamental rights which result directly from a non-recognition of same-sex marriages. Like in the *Navtej Johar* and *Joseph Shine* cases, where the Supreme Court faced questions of sexuality, autonomy, social equality and social legitimisation, the question of same-sex marriages too boils down to the competing interests of the rights of a society to conserve traditions with all their infirmities and the right of an individual to enjoy his constitutional freedoms with all his idiosyncrasies.

Arguing in the language of rights might give legitimacy to the content of the petition, but it side-steps the point pertaining to societal conceptualisations of the institution of marriage. Marriage is predominantly a social institution. The Centre's stance, thus, finds a backing in four interrelated sub-arguments. First, the question of same-sex marriage has the potential to alter how we conceive a family – the building block of society. Most conventional definitions of marriage adhere to the Centre's conceptualisation of the institution and generally identify marriage as a socially accepted union of individuals for procreation. While same-sex marriages are not a threat to this understanding, they demand a nuanced alteration/adaptation of it. This requires deliberation at a social level first.

Second, the current legislative framework promotes the conventional understanding of marriage. Marriages in India are administered through a complex legal structure with a religious genesis. They are consequently governed by the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955; the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936; the Christian Marriage and Divorce Act, 1957; and Muslim Personal Laws which do not have any strict legislative framework. All marriage laws, except for the Special Marriage Act (SMA) of 1954, recognise marriages between a man and a woman. Parliament enacted SMA to facilitate inter-religious marriages. Therefore, the legislative intent behind the use of gender-neutral language in Section 4 of the SMA cannot be presumed, in and of itself, to be in favour of same-sex marriages either.

Third, as distinct from the constitutional morality adopted in the Navtej Johar case, which recognises consummation for purposes other than procreation, religious and societal morality still conceptualises intercourse as a procreative activity. This is why various laws pertaining to marriage mandate the consummation of marriage. For instance, Section 12 of the Hindu Marriage Act provides that where a marriage has not been consummated owing to the impotence of one of the parties, the said marriage is voidable.

This also answers the logical question of whether a marriage subsisting between a couple unable to procreate is a challenge to the idea of a valid marriage. In the legal conception of marriage, procreation remains a basic requirement. The same can be gauged from the above-mentioned provisions, which make marriages voidable on the basis of impotence and lack of consummation. Consequently, the parties to the marriage would not be labelled as 'divorcees' but merely as 'unmarried.'

A broader social context

Fourth, conventional conceptualisations of family and marriage are facing evolutionary challenges. The idea of live-in relationships is just as ideationally confrontational to marriage as same-sex marriages. Even though they are judicially recognised, live-in relationships are not equated to marriage under the law. The social acceptability of such relationships remains in a state of limbo. The apprehensions of the Centre regarding the conceptual alteration of the family unit, therefore, are not actually as regressively homophobic as they may seem prima facie. Instead, they are generalised to a broader social context. Much like live-in relationships, the issue of legal recognition of same-sex unions too requires a broader debate in society and the legislature.

It is not our case that the decisions of same-sex couples to reside together in a union do not deserve legal recognition. The rights issues are substantial and must be addressed immediately. Nevertheless, given the implications of recognising same-sex unions as a couple, the push to formalise the institution of same-sex unions must come from representative bodies such as Parliament.

The push to formalise the institution of same-sex unions must come from representative bodies such as Parliament and not the courts

An unrealistic Budget

It is unclear how Telangana plans to raise resources to meet its ambitious targets

STATE OF PLAY

M. Rajeev
rajeev.madabhushi@thehindu.co.in

The Telangana government has presented an ambitious budget with a total outlay of ₹2.9 lakh crore for the new financial year. The Budget has projected revenue to the tune of ₹2.16 lakh crore, which is close to ₹40,0000 crore higher than the ₹1.76 lakh crore in the revised estimates. There is no clarity on how the government proposes to enhance resources by almost 20%, especially as it can ill-afford to increase taxes or duties during an election year. The State is set to go full throttle into election mode in the next few months.

Until February end, there was a huge shortfall in grants-in-aid as well as open market borrowings. The Union Finance Ministry cut the eligibility of the State to raise open market borrowings by more than ₹15,000 crore in the just-concluded fiscal citing prudency in finance-related issues as the reason. Grants-in-aid were projected at ₹41,001 crore in the Budget estimates of 2022-23, but the actual estimates till February end stood at ₹9,324 crore, which is less than one-fourth of the projections. The State is unlikely to receive any substantial amount under the head during April too. Market borrowings were pegged at ₹52,167 crore, but actual borrowings ended up at ₹39,859 crore – a gap of close to ₹13,000 crore. With the deficit under the two heads hovering around ₹40,000 crore, doubts persist over the achievement of targets for the new fiscal, especially since the Centre is unlikely to relax the restrictions imposed.

Grants-in-aid and contributions during the 2021-22 fiscal too were low at ₹8,619 crore of the projected ₹38,669 crore, according to the provisional figures submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Revenue through grants-in-aid and contributions was higher than what was projected in 2020-21, at ₹15,471 crore as against ₹10,525 crore, but this was largely on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, to enable the State to meet the shortfall in revenues. It is surprising that the government therefore went ahead with higher estimates for the subsequent two years. The projection for grants-in-aid and contributions for the new fiscal too is high at ₹41,259 crore. "We have staked a claim for our due. We cannot downsize the estimates just because the Centre had not released our due," said a senior Finance Department official on being asked about the projection.

Coupled with this, the government has added a new head – Inter State Settlements – in the next year's Budget with an estimated revenue of ₹17,828 crore. The State believes that this is possible with neighbouring Andhra Pradesh's contribution towards power dues.

The total revenue receipts at the end of February stood at ₹1.33 lakh crore, much lower than the ₹1.93 lakh crore projected in the Budget estimates and ₹1.75 lakh crore in the revised estimates for FY 2022-23.

With no respite from the restrictions imposed by the Union Finance Ministry in raising resources and with little scope for raising taxes or duties, the government is focused on raising resources through other means including the sale of land in prime areas. The Cabinet sub-committee on resource mobilisation aims to raise resources through means other than loans and open market borrowings. Instructions have reportedly been issued to district-level authorities to come up with plans for raising resources in their respective jurisdictions, including the sale of prime land, so as to raise finances to meet commitments such as Rythu Bandhu and Dalit Bandhu for which an estimated ₹16,000 crore and ₹17,700 crore have been allocated, respectively, in the Budget. The State government also needs to constitute the next Pay Revision Commission as the tenure of the previous Commission, headed by retired bureaucrat C.R. Biswal, comes to an end this year.

The government has to constitute the Commission at least during the next fiscal, and consider implementing some of the Commission's recommendations in the coming months. All this means a further burden on the exchequer.

Officials claim that there will be a significant increase in accrued expenses as the focus is on improving internal efficiency, but whether this alone will be able to bridge the huge gap amounting to a few thousand crores is the moot question. It would have been better for the State government to focus on presenting a more realistic picture rather than opting for inflated estimates.

Telangana stands out in CCTV surveillance

Each police Station in the State has access to 257 CCTVs

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team, Reuters

Many cities in India rank high among the regions that have extensive CCTV camera coverage. **Chart 1** shows the number of CCTV cameras per 1,000 people in 100 non-Chinese cities on the horizontal axis. On the vertical axis, it shows the number of CCTV cameras per square mile as of July 2022. Since the majority of China's cities have extensive CCTV camera coverage, they were been considered. While the number of CCTV cameras per square mile were found most extensively in Delhi and Chennai, the number of CCTV cameras per 1,000 people was highest in Indore and Hyderabad.

A survey conducted by Loknitic-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in August 2022 in 12 States shows extensive public support for placement of CCTV cameras. More than three-fourths of the people supported installing CCTV cameras at the entrance of their homes. A similar share "fully agreed" that this would help monitor and reduce crimes. Only one out of four strongly felt that CCTV cameras carried a risk of illegal mass surveillance.

Nonetheless, a recent event in Telangana has once again brought attention to the problem of CCTV surveillance. In January, Khadeer Khan was apprehended in Hyderabad when authorities purportedly recognised him from security camera footage as a potential culprit in a chain-snatching event. A short while later, he was set free. He died while receiving medical attention for the purported injuries he acquired during his detention. Authorities asserted that Khan was taken into custody due to his resemblance to the individual captured on the surveillance video.

K. Saidulu, deputy police superintendent, told Reuters, "When it was ruled out that Khadeer was not the one who had committed the crime, he was released. Everything was done as per procedure." In March, a fact-finding team of civil society members alleged that there is no "specific FIR" against Khan and wanted an FIR to be filed against the four policemen involved in the case.

The Telangana police rely on extensive CCTV network for surveillance along with Facial Recognition Technology (FRT). They stand out in terms of access to CCTV cameras, according to the Status of Policing in India Report 2023. As the police cannot access all the CCTV cameras in a State, only those which police teams have access to, according to the Bureau of Police Research and Development, were considered for the analysis. **Chart 2** plots the number of CCTV cameras that each police station in a State had access to (2016-2020 average) on the horizontal axis. With each police station in Telangana having access to 257 CCTVs, the State surpassed the others by a wide margin. The chart also plots the murder rate in States in the same period. CCTV intensity did not correlate with reduced murder rate in a State.

Notably, Telangana has four FRT systems which are active, the highest across States, followed by Delhi, which has three **(Chart 3)**.

Interestingly, while the police extensively use CCTV footage to identify miscreants, many police stations themselves lack CCTV cameras. Only 33% of the police stations in India had functioning CCTV cameras as of January 23, 2023, despite the mandate of the Supreme Court in *Paramvir Singh Saini vs. Baljit Singh* (2020). The share of some States which had replied to the RTI queries are presented in **Chart 4**. Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh are among those States which did not respond to the RTI queries. In Telangana, only 50.9% stations had CCTV cameras.

Caught on record

Chart 1 is sourced from the Comparitech Data. Charts 2, 3 and 4 are sourced from the Status of Policing in India Report 2023. The report had collated data from the Bureau of Police Research and Development and other sources

Chart 1 | The chart shows the number of CCTV cameras per 1,000 people and the number of CCTV cameras per square mile

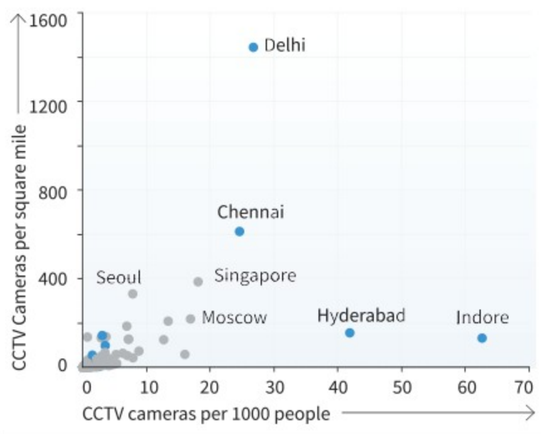


Chart 2 | The number of CCTV cameras that each police station had access to and the murder rate (2016-2020)

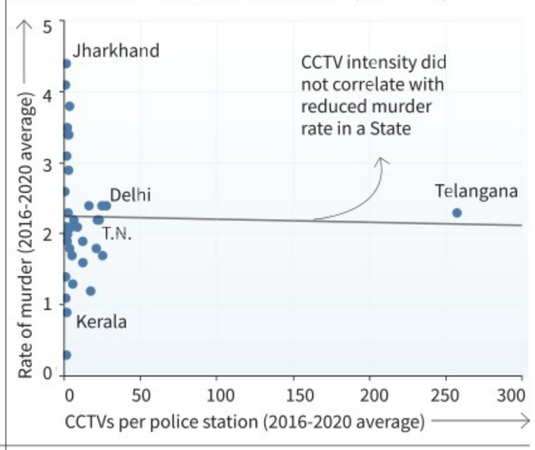


Chart 3 | Telangana has four Facial Recognition Technology systems which are active, the highest across States

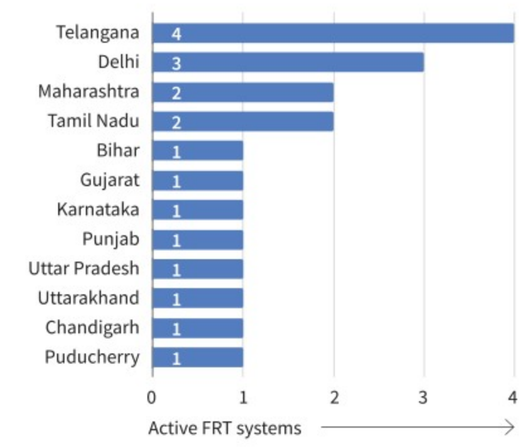
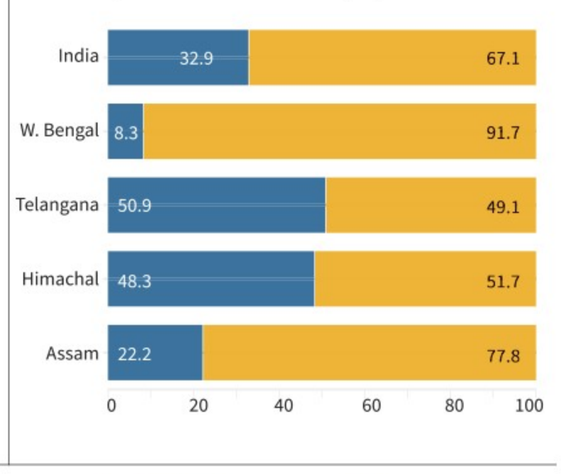


Chart 4 | Only 33% of the police stations in India had functioning CCTV cameras as of January 23, 2023



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 3, 1973

HMT project to manufacture electric bulbs

Bangalore, April 2: The State-owned Hindustan Machine Tools Limited is going in shortly for a Rs. 10-crore integrated project with Hungarian collaboration, for the manufacture of electric bulbs and accessories and the production of machines to make them. The project has been assigned to the Hyderabad unit of the HMT's complex. The Chairman of the HMT, Dr. S.M. Patil, told pressmen here, to-day, that the Chairman of the Hungarian firm, Tungsram, was expected to arrive in Bangalore shortly to sign an agreement with HMT. The proposed bulb plant in Hyderabad would have an annual capacity of 20 millions. One of the main constraints in the manufacture of bulbs, Dr. Patil said, was that machinery for the production of chains, had to be imported. This item would now be produced as part of the integrated project. Dr. Patil estimated the country's bulb demand at 150 millions a year now. This was expected to go up by another 100 million in the next few years. The bulb project was part of the ambitious expansion plans of the HMT over the next ten years, to be provided for in the Five Year Plans, involving an additional investment of about Rs. 70 crores to yeild an annual turnover of Rs. 100 crores. When all the plans were through, he estimated that the employees strength would go up to 22,000 from the present 15,000.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 3, 1923

Salt duty

London, April 2: The "Daily Telegraph" discussing the certification of the salt tax says that Lord Reading's defence is unanswerable and considers his action is absolutely justified. The alternative was again to postpone settling Indian finances on a sound basis and postponing it, moreover, in response to agitation in which the most respectable element was entirely irrational in sentiment in support of which no serious argument was adduced or could be adduced. It concludes: 'The affair has demonstrated the weakness of the Assembly in the present early stage of its political development and the wisdom of the provision in the Act for meeting such a constitutional crisis.

From Page One

Driver dies after assault by 'cow vigilantes'

The trio loaded the cows bought at a cattle fair in Maddur on Friday, and were on their way to Tamil Nadu when Mr. Kerehalli and gang intercepted them at Santemala Circle past midnight.

The accused posted a live video of the incident, now deleted from his social media account but accessed by *The Hindu*. In the video, Mr. Kerehalli is heard saying that all the occupants of the van fled from the scene as soon as they intercepted it and that "his boys had gone chasing them to nab them".

Later in the night, police sources said that the gang of cow vigilantes brought Mr. Zaheer, the driver of the vehicle, to the Sathanur police station, where he was booked under the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020. Based on Mr. Zaheer's complaint, they also registered a case against Mr. Kerehalli and his associates. That FIR, a copy of which *The Hindu* has accessed, said the driver alleged that the vigilante had hurled abuses at him and handed him over to the police, even as the other two men from the vehicle fled. While Mr. Zaheer was detained, Mr. Kerehalli was let off, sources said.

Hours later, around 8 a.m. on Saturday, Mr. Pasha's friends and family found his body in a nearby bush. "We noticed there were multiple burn marks all over his body and bruises on his head, which indicate he was tortured and killed," Mr. Yunus Pasha told *The Hindu*. An autopsy was conducted on the body on Saturday evening and a report is awaited, police said.

A senior police officer said that there was no evidence yet to ascertain the cause of death. "Though we thought of filing an unnatural death report, we have now taken up a murder case based on the complaint by the deceased's brother and are investigating the case," the officer said.

Mr. Zaheer, who was released on bail, told *The Hindu* that as the vehicle was intercepted by Mr. Kerehalli and his associates, all three of its occupants fled from the scene. He said he was hiding in a bush nearby and came out after about 20 minutes when he saw the accused making a Facebook Live video. The gang then bundled him up in a vehicle in which he claimed he was assaulted, adding that a policeman rescued him. Mr. Zaheer said he did not know what had happened to Mr. Idrees and Mr. Irfan.

ISRO's Reusable Launch Vehicle aces landing test

"The RLV took off at 7.10 a.m. by a Chinook helicopter of the IAF as an underslung load and flew at a height of 4.5 km. Once the predetermined pillbox parameters were attained, based on the RLV's Mission Management and Computer command, the RLV was released mid-air, at a down range of 4.6 km," the ISRO said. Release conditions included 10 parameters covering "position, velocity, altitude and body rates".

It added that the release of the RLV was autonomous as it performed approach and landing manoeuvres using Integrated Navigation, Guidance and Control System and completed the landing on the airstrip at 7.40 a.m.

The ISRO also said that for the first time in the world, a winged body has been carried to an altitude of 4.5 km by an helicopter and released for carrying out autonomous landing on a runway.

The Indian Air Force said that its trial team, which participated in the mission, was headed by a woman officer from the Bengaluru-based Aircraft Systems and Testing Establishment.

According to ISRO, the configuration of RLV-TD is similar to that of an aircraft and combines the complexity of both launch vehicles and aircraft.

'1930' stands between fraudsters, customers

It usually takes up to 10 days for the money to be returned to victims' accounts. "Some frauds are of very low value, people do not want to register FIRs. We cannot force them. Some complaints cannot be converted to FIRs. But this helps in curbing such crimes because the *modus operandi* is analysed, the loopholes that were exploited to commit the crime are further plugged," the Minister said.

The Home Minister was speaking after he reviewed the working of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) on Jai Singh Road in Delhi. One of the key components of I4C is the 1930 helpline and the portal – cybercrime.gov.in. – where people irrespective of jurisdiction can register complaints. While 1930 is specifically meant for financial frauds, the portal can be used to register cases of sexual harassment and crimes against children too.

The Ministry aims to make the I4C a one-stop solution for everything related to cybercrimes. The 14C had been allotted ₹94 crore in the 2023-24 Budget. However, there are still teething problems. "The people involved in such scams have multiple bank accounts. After cheating a person, they transfer the amount to other accounts. Talks are on with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to automate the tickets, presently it is done manually," said the official.

On the Twitter page of @cyberdost, the official page of the crime portal, several users have been complaining that the 1930 helpline does not connect or no action is taken after a complaint is lodged.

All eyes on border talks between Bhutan, China as King begins India visit

He will meet Modi tomorrow; Bhutan PM had caused a storm with his comments on discussing the Doklam trijunction dispute 'trilaterally', with Bhutan, India and China as 'equal' interlocutors

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

As Bhutan's fifth King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck arrives in Delhi on Monday afternoon at the invitation of President Droupadi Murmu, all eyes will be on his talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, and any possible discussions on the progress in Bhutan-China border talks.

While the Bhutanese King met Mr. Modi in September last year, when he stopped over in Delhi on his way to attend British Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, this is the first such high-level meeting between the two leaders since Bhutan and China's talks on their boundary made rapid progress. Mr. Modi and Bhutan's PM Lotay Tshering have spoken often on the phone, but last met for bilateral talks in Thimphu in August 2020.

Chink in the armour: India is watchful of the possibility of a 'swap agreement' between Bhutan and China in border resolution. AFP

India wary

In October 2021, Bhutan and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a "three-step roadmap" to expedite border resolution talks. The discussion centres on two valleys to Bhutan's north and the Doklam area to the west of Bhutan, close to the trijunction with India, which was the site of a stand-off between Indian and Chinese forces in 2017. India has been particularly watchful of any possibility of a "swap agreement" between the two countries that could affect its security at the trijunction.

In January 2023, Bhutan and China held talks in Kunming, and reached a "positive consensus" on how to move forward with the talks. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra arrived in Thimphu three days after the Kunming talks for bilateral discussions, where he also called on the King's father, the fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

Row over comments

While on a visit to Europe last week, Dr. Tshering told a Belgian newspaper that he hoped to complete boundary demarcation talks on disputed areas in the next "one or two more meetings" and that a visit by a Chinese "technical team" was expected shortly in Bhutan. The Bhutanese PM's comments on discussing the Doklam trijunction dispute "trilaterally", with Bhutan, India and China as "equal" interlocutors, set off a storm in Delhi, including with the Opposition Congress, which said that "Bhutan and India's so-far unshakeable relationship is facing a challenge from an aggressive China".

However, Dr. Tshering subsequently clarified his comments on Saturday, telling *The Bhutanese* newspaper that he had said "nothing new and there is no change in position".

Both Indian and Bhutanese officials declined to comment on whether King Jigme Khesar Wangchuck would speak to Mr. Modi about the latest developments in talks.

Meeting PM, EAM

In a statement that was timed with the Bhutan government's announcement of the King's visit, the External Affairs Ministry said the visit was part of the "long-standing tradition" of high-level exchanges between the two countries, and that the leaders would "review the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation and to further advance the close bilateral partnership, including economic and development cooperation". However, neither Thimphu nor New Delhi referred to any specific agreements expected to be announced during the visit.

The Bhutanese King will receive External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday evening. He is expected to hold talks with Mr. Modi on Tuesday morning, meet with Ms. Murmu on Tuesday evening, and then leave on Wednesday. Sources said that the leaders were expected to discuss India's support to Bhutan for its five year plans. At present, the Indian government's assistance towards Bhutan's 12th five year plan (2018-23) amounts to ₹4,500 crore.

Foreign Trade Policy brings 'strategic and economic interests' into trade transit ties

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Marking a significant shift in the country's stance on allowing transit of goods in and out of neighbouring countries, the new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) has introduced an additional consideration in providing such trade transit facilities for adjacent countries – India's strategic and economic interests.

The changed language in provisions pertaining to transit facilities, as well as a subtle shift in the stance on trade with neighbouring countries in the new policy, released by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on March 31, could unnerve some landlocked countries around India such as Nepal and Bhutan that rely on goods transit through India.

The Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 that was applicable till last Friday stated: "Transit of goods through India from/or to countries adjacent to India shall be regulated in accordance with bilateral treaties between India and those countries and will be subject to such restrictions as may be specified by DGFT [Directorate General of Foreign Trade] in accordance with international conventions."

This has been revised in Section 2.23 of the new FTP document to state that such transit of goods "shall be enabled and regulated in accordance with strategic and economic interests of India as well as the bilateral treaties between India and those countries."

While the previous policy empowered the DGFT to frame schemes or issue necessary instructions "to promote trade and strengthen economic ties with neighbouring countries", the new policy rephrases the first objective as "promote and regulate trade...".

Premiers' visit

While Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, accompanied by Bhutanese Foreign and External Trade Minister Tandi Dorji, begins a three-day visit to India on Monday, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda is also expected to embark on a bilateral trip to New Delhi soon.

Trade economist Biswajit Dhar said the implications of using the provisions of Section 2.23 must be weighed in light of India's commitments at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

"Freedom of transit to landlocked countries are guaranteed under Article V of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Further, the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation of which India is a party to says that 'regulations... in connection with traffic in transit imposed by Member shall not be applied in a manner that would constitute a disguised restriction' on traffic in transit," he told *The Hindu*.

West Bengal BJP leader shot dead

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and businessman Raju Jha was shot dead at Shaktigarh in Purba Bardhaman district on a National Highway late on Saturday evening.

Mr. Jha was on his way to Kolkata when unidentified gunmen in a car shot at the SUV in which he was travelling.

The Purba Bardhaman district police have launched an investigation into the murder.

Govt. to expand definition of 'political risk' under export guarantee scheme

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Exporters may soon be able to get insurance cover for some losses suffered on account of countries' sudden imposition of barriers to trade, under the new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), which also envisages the formation of a "whole of government" ministerial panel to address the grievances of small exporters.

The government will expand the definition of "political risk" under the export guarantee scheme to cover any fresh imposition of non-tariff barriers by importing nations after a shipment has left Indian shores.

Typically, the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) indemnifies exporters for losses when buyers turn insolvent or default on payments, as well as political risks like war and sudden import restrictions or promulgations of laws or decrees, but does not cover anti-dumping steps or non-tariff barriers.

"Some of the anti-dumping measures or non-tariff barriers introduced after a shipment has been made, will come under the purview of the political risk," the new FTP states.

MSME grievances

The new policy also promises to set up an inter-ministerial committee to examine micro, small and medium enterprises' (MSME) trade-related grievances, which have policy ramifications.

"This will expedite decision making with a 'whole of government' approach," it said. The FTP also does away an earlier requirement for importers who store their merchandise in bonded warehouses, which mandated them to re-export such goods if they were not cleared for domestic consumption within one year or "such extended period as the customs authorities may permit".

"The clearance of the warehoused goods shall be as per the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962," states the new policy, which does not have an expiry date.

Govt. stays with export curbs on petroleum

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government has extended export curbs on petroleum products that compel oil refiners to sell a significant chunk of their export volumes in the domestic market, as per a notification issued on April 1 by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

These restrictions had been first put in place in July 2022, along with the levy of windfall taxes on the profits of oil producers on crude oil, petrol, diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), amid a surge in international oil prices.

"The exporter is required to submit a self-declaration to the concerned Customs authority at the time of export confirming that 50% of quantity mentioned in the Shipping Bill has been/will be supplied in the domestic market during the relevant financial year," the DGFT notification dated April 1 stated. A slightly lower commitment of 30% of exports to be supplied in the Indian market has been set for diesel exporters.

While exports to Bhutan and Nepal are excluded from the calculations of outbound shipments under this norm, 100% Export Oriented Units as well as firms located in Special Economic Zones have also been left out from these quantitative restrictions.

"Such exporters are also required to file a quarterly return to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas," as per the DGFT notification, which does not specify a sunset date for these provisions.

Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh is new Vice-Chief of Navy

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh assumed charge as the Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS) on Sunday in a series of top-level changes in the Navy. In other appointments, Vice-Adm. Suraj Berry assumed charge as the Chief of Personnel (COP) while Vice-Admiral Atul Anand took over as the Director-General Naval Operations (DGNO).

In other changes, Air Marshal B.R. Krishna, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee and Air Marshal J. Chalapathi, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Air Command based at Thiruvananthapuram, relinquished offices upon superannuation on March 31. New appointments for both the positions are still awaited.

Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh

V. Adm. Singh took over after the incumbent V. Adm. S.N. Ghormade stepped down on March 31 upon superannuation. V. Adm. Singh was commissioned in 1986 in the Executive Branch of the Navy. He has served as the Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations).

Family of 4 from Gujarat drowns while illegally crossing river to reach U.S.

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

A family of four from Gujarat – a couple and their two adult children – is among the eight people who drowned in the St. Lawrence river on the Quebec-New York border when their boat capsized while they were attempting to illegally enter the United States from Canada.

The family was from Manekpura village in Mehsana district of north Gujarat. They appear to have reached Canada a few weeks ago on a tourist visa and were apparently trying to enter the United States illegally by undertaking the highly risky boat journey across the St. Lawrence river.

Pravin Chaudhary, his wife Daksha, their son Mit, and daughter Vidhi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sources said they are Pravin Chaudhary, a farmer, his wife Daksha, their son Mit, and daughter Vidhi.

Sources said a local agent engaged in human smuggling helped the family prepare for tourist visas to Canada and their illegal attempt to enter the U.S.

News of the incident reached Gujarat after the police in Canada recovered eight bodies from the river.

"We had spoken to them two weeks ago. They had gone to Canada on a tour," Jashu Chaudhary, a distant cousin of Pravin Chaudhary, told mediapersons in Manekpura.

BJP appoints Rathore as Leader of the Opposition in Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The BJP on Sunday appointed Churu MLA Rajendra Rathore as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajasthan Assembly.

The post was vacant since Gulab Chand Kataria vacated it to become Assam Governor on February 12. The decision was taken unanimously at a BJP Legislature Party meeting here.

Former BJP State president Satish Poonia was appointed the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in a move seen as a "balancing act", giving weightage to all the factions in the party. In a surprise move, Mr. Poonia, MLA from Amber, was replaced by Chittorgarh MP C.P. Joshi as the party's State chief on March 23.

Mr. Rathore said he would serve the party as a grassroots worker, while opposing the "anti-people policies" of the ruling Congress in the run-up to the Assembly election.

New Congress Working Committee still on paper

Rahul's disqualification, Parliament session, Karnataka poll have delayed its formation; some leaders express concern, say party can't be complacent with LS polls less than 12 months away

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi's conviction in a defamation case and his subsequent disqualification from the Lok Sabha, the ongoing Parliament session and the upcoming Karnataka election are some of the crucial factors that seem to have delayed the announcement of a new Congress Working Committee (CWC).

The CWC would steer the party into the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

On February 24, at the 85th plenary session of the party in Raipur, the Steering Committee that is functioning in place of a regular CWC, had authorised party president Mallikarjun Kharge to nominate his new team instead of holding elections to half of the CWC posts as mandated by the party Constitution.

At Raipur, the party had also effected constitutional changes to expand the number of members as well as ensure that, at least, half of the members represent youth, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities and women.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge with senior leader Sonia Gandhi during party's Raipur plenary session, in February. PTI

"From the ongoing Parliament session to deciding on the party's political response to Rahul*ji*'s disqualification, Kharge*ji* has been caught up with several things. And now, with Assembly elections in his home State, it is likely that the new team could be announced only after Karnataka elections next month," said a party functionary familiar with the developments.

The source cited above also pointed out that Mr. Gandhi, after being elected party president in December 2017, took more than three months to announce a new CWC. "Don't read much into it as setting up a new team would need some careful thinking and planning," he added.

However, some leaders argue that that the party cannot afford to be complacent with Lok Sabha polls less than 12 months away. "How can a party function without its highest decision-making body for almost six months now. Even since Mr. Kharge got elected as president, the CWC ceased to exist and the Steering Committee is meant to be a temporary arrangement," said a senior leader who did not wish to be named.

The senior leader said most of the Pradesh Congress Committees (PCC) also need to be revamped with new chiefs as the PCCs had authorised the Congress president to reconstitute the State units.

"In an election year, we shouldn't adopt this approach as we are losing crucial time and even a good team needs time to deliver the goods," he added.

Same-sex marriage a danger to family system: faith leaders

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

The correct meaning of marriage refers to the marriage between a man and a woman, says Jaamat

Raising concern over a legal sanction for same-sex marriage, the Jaamat-e-Islami said it would present a great danger to the well-entrenched family system.

"The Jamaat is opposed to same-sex marriages. We feel that the correct and universally accepted meaning of marriage refers to the marriage between a man and a woman. Any tampering therein would go against our civilizational values as well as disturb the many personal laws of the country," Jamaat-e-Islami's vice-president Salim Engineer said.

Mr. Engineer also reiterated the Jamaat's opposition to the decriminalisation of Section 377 which now permits sex between consenting adults, irrespective of gender.

The Ajmer dargah's Salman Chishti said that the balance between personal laws and accepted societal values was in danger, citing Islamic beliefs to buttress his stand against same-sex marriages.

His views found an echo in those of Jain guru Acharya Lokesh, who felt that such a move would go against the ancient values of our society. He reiterated that in Jainism too, marriage is the foundation for reproduction and the extension of the family tree, something not possible in a same-sex marital alliance.

The Communion of Churches also reiterated that marriage was a divine institution in the Christian faith, holding that a union of two persons of the same sex cannot have the validity of marriage. The Communion has written to the President on the subject.

The Sikh leadership of the Akal Takht has also been opposed to same-sex marriage.

Ram Navami violence: 77 held, Internet suspended in Nalanda

The Hindu Bureau
NALANDA

Seventy-seven people have been arrested and 12 FIRs lodged in connection with the violence that erupted at Bihar Sharif in Nalanda district during the Ram Navami festivities, the police said on Sunday.

Prohibitory orders have been imposed under Section 144 of the Cr.PC. Internet services has been suspended in the district and is expected to be in place for the next 48 hours.

One person died in fresh violence on Saturday, the police said. Another injured person is undergoing treatment in Patna.

An armed mob of around 1,000 people vandalised a madrasa in Bihar Sharif's Murarpur and set fire to its library, said Mohammad Siyabuddin, the imam of the mosque and caretaker of the madrasa. "A member of the mosque's peace committee was threatened to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'," he added.

Doors of BJP shut forever for Nitish, will uproot grand alliance, says Shah

Amarnath Tewary
HISUA (BIHAR)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday reiterated that the doors of the BJP were shut forever for Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal(U) chief Nitish Kumar.

Addressing a meeting at Nawada in Bihar, he said Mr. Kumar would never be able to nurse his dream of becoming the Prime Minister as there was "no vacancy" for the post.

The JD(U) snapped ties with the BJP in August 2022 to form the *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) government with six other parties, including the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Congress.

"For power you [Nitish Kumar] have gone to sit on the lap of Lalu Prasad whose regime was synonymous with jungle Raj," Mr. Shah said.

"We will go to the people of the State and uproot the *Mahagatbandhan*."

Mr. Shah's public meeting in Sasaram on Sunday was cancelled as communal tension flared up and prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was imposed in the area. The district administration and the State government, though, denied the imposition of Section 144.

Referring to the communal tensions, Mr. Shah said, "I couldn't go to Sasaram but will definitely visit there to hold a meeting in honour of Samrat Ashok". "When we come to power we will straighten the rioters after hanging them upside down. " "There is no use of requesting State government but will pray to God to ensure that peace returns in Sasaram and Nalanda. The government is in alliance with a party [RJD] known for jungle Raj, can there be peace in the State?" he said.

Centre to send extra force

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday expressed concern over incidents of communal violence in Bihar, and spoke to Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to take stock of the situation, sources said.

The Union Home Ministry has also decided to send additional paramilitary forces to Bihar to assist the State administration in handling the situation arising out of the violence.

Centre issues guidelines to States on conducting VVIP roadshows

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

With roadshows and mass contact programmes becoming a preferred mode of public mobilisation for political parties and leaders, the Union government has issued a security advisory to the States on the protection of dignitaries.

The Home Ministry said prolonged exposure of the VVIPs to large crowd and continuous travel through congested routes made them vulnerable to attack by hostile elements.

According to police sources, the advisory comes against the backdrop of the Bharat Jodo Yatra by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the escalating threat perceptions targeting VVIPs perceived by the Central and State intelligence agencies.

Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. FILE PHOTO

The advisory said allowing proximity access to a large crowd that was not frisked and prolonged exposure of the VVIPs along roads with elevated structures was a risk as they could be targeted by extremists.

The advantage of having access-control measures, sterile zone and anti-sabotage checks was missing in roadshows, the sources said quoting the advisory.

Besides the possibility of stampede and other law and order problems, terrorist groups might take advantage of the prolonged exposure of the VVIP. In case of roadshows running to weeks or months, such hostile elements could conduct a dry run and then target the protected at an opportune time, the sources said.

Asking the State law-enforcing agencies to work closely with organisers of such political events, the Centre said routes for roadshows should be chosen with abundant caution considering local intelligence inputs, evacuation options, access to safe house and other contingency decisions.

The local police should conduct a thorough security audit of the route proposed and security components should include deployment of adequate security personnel, use of bomb detectors, anti-sabotage checks at vulnerable places such as high-rise buildings, traffic management and crowd control measures.

Maharashtra CM kicks off 'Savarkar Gaurav Yatra'

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Stating that an insult to V. D. Savarkar was akin to insulting all freedom fighters as well as the country, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, his Shiv Sena faction and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) kicked off the State-wide 'Savarkar Gaurav Yatra' from Thane to celebrate the Hindutva ideologue's contributions and protest against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's criticism of him.

Mr. Shinde attacked former Chief Minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray and said that when Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar had allegedly 'insulted' Savarkar (in 2004), late Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray had called for protests against Mr. Aiyar.

"And yet today, his son [Uddhav Thackeray] is sitting side by side with those [the Congress] who have repeatedly insulted Savarkar and Bal Thackeray's grandson [Aaditya Thackeray] is embracing Rahul Gandhi. This is a hurtful scene and unfortunate for Maharashtra," he said.

Kejriwal questions Modi's educational status at Assam rally

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Barely 48 hours after the Gujarat High Court fined him ₹25,000 for seeking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's degree certificates, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal questioned the former's educational status at an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) rally here on Sunday.

Addressing AAP supporters along with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann here, Mr. Kejriwal said being illiterate or semi-literate was not a crime, but the Prime Minister of a country needs to be highly educated.

"I have heard our Prime Minister saying that he has not studied beyond his village school. Ordinary people may have reasons to be illiterate or poorly educated, but not the Prime Minister who has to take a lot of important decisions," he said.

Otherwise, "bad decisions" like demonetisation happen, which play with the lives of people, Mr. Kejriwal added.

He also criticised his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma for lack of governance and failure to

Arvind Kejriwal

"even conduct" class 10 exams smoothly in the State.

He advised Mr. Sarma to be true to the "Assamese culture of hospitality". "People of Assam are very nice. They do not threaten guests as Himanta Biswa Sarma does," he said, referring to the Assam Chief Minister's defamation threat.

Mr. Sarma had taken offence to Mr. Kejriwal's statement in the Delhi Assembly a few days ago, placing the former in the category of people who joined the BJP to avoid going to jail for corruption.

Mr. Mann criticised the BJP for selling all the assets of the country. "If the BJP comes to you with money, accept it but press the button for the AAP when it comes to voting," he said.

SP's hatred towards Dalits well known, says Mayawati

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Sunday hit out at the Samajwadi Party (SP) for trying to manipulate Dalit voters in the name of BSP founder and Dalit leader Kanshi Ram.

She said the long history of the SP's caste-driven hatred and malice towards Dalits was well known.

"Samajwadi Party's history of hatred and political malice towards Dalits, Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) and their icons Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram is in front of the people. That is why the guest house incident took place in the year 1995 and the alliance of both parties broke down. SP's anti-Dalit character and face is not hidden from anyone," Ms. Mayawati said in a press release, after chairing a meeting with party functionaries.

The statement by Ms. Mayawati comes against the backdrop of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's upcoming visit to Rae Bareli on Monday where he is scheduled to unveil a statue of Kanshi Ram.

COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
CIAL/COML/LIC 06/20186 03/04/2023
TENDER NOTICE
EXCLUSIVE ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS
Sealed tenders are invited from eligible agencies for award of license for Exclusive Advertisement Rights at Cochin International Airport. Interested agencies may apply for Pre – Qualification on or before 24th April 2023. For further details please log on to **www.cial.aero** or contact : 0484 2610115 (Extn: 2614/2619).
Sd/
Managing Director

राजस्थान सरकार
जिला आयुष सोसाइटी, राजसमन्द
(कार्यालय उपनिदेशक आयुर्वेद विभाग, राजसमन्द)
क्रमांक: 185 दिनांक: 22.03.2023
Corrigendum
Corrigendum in Bid issued 02/2022-23 dated 03.03.2023 for Construction of Meditourism and Ayush Wellness Centre on EPC Basis at Billi ki Bhagal, Nathdwara, Rajsamand (Rajasthan) is issued available at http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in website. With this last submission date and opening date has been changed to 10.04.2023 at 12.00 PM & 10.04.203 at 3.00 PM
UBN:- AYU2223WLOB00182
Member Secretary
District Ayush Society, Rajsamand
DIPR/C/4859/2023

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES ZONE, UDAIPUR
Near Akashvani, Chetak Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan)313001
Phone No. 0294-2414794 Email:- aceudaipur2019@gmail.com
No. ACE/Actt./Bhilwara/F. /2022-23/4517 Dated :- 20/3/2023
E-NIT No. 34/2022-23
NIB Code - WRD2223A0759
Bids for the following work are invited from interested bidders upto 6:00 PM, dated 21-04-2023

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. in Lacs)
1	Planning, Design and Construction of solar based micro irrigation scheme in the command area of Ren ka Naka MIP, Tehsil-Nimbaheda, Distt- Chittorgarh its O&M for a period of 5 years on Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) Single Responsibility Turnkey basis.	819.40

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd
UBN :- WRD2223WLOB02834 **Additional Chief Engineer**
DIPR/C/4854 **Water Resources Zone, Udaipur**

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES ZONE JAIPUR
No. 10511 Date: 22/3/23
E-NIT no - 26/2022-23
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, bids are invited from eligible bidders for the work "Rehabilitation of Indroli Minor of GMC tehsil Kaman District Bharatpur" Rs 457.77 Lakh up to 06:00 PM on dated 17.04.2023 and technical bid will be opened on dated 18.04.2023 at 3:00 PM.
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
NIB no: WRD2223A0767 **Additional Chief Engineer**
UBN no: WRD2223WSOB02844 **Water Resources Zone**
DIPR/C/4828 **Jaipur**

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES ZONE JAIPUR
No. 10494 Date: 22/3/23
E-NIT no - 24/2022-23
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, bids are invited from eligible bidders for the work "Rehabilitation and Improvement Work of Panchana Dam Tehsil & District Karauli, Rajasthan" Rs 1055.79 Lakh up to 06:00 PM on dated 17.04.2023 and technical bid will be opened on dated 18.04.2023 at 3:00 PM.
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
NIB no: WRD2223A0764 **Additional Chief Engineer**
UBN no: WRD2223WLOB02840 **Water Resources Zone**
DIPR/C/4826 **Jaipur**

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड सागवाड़ा, जिला डूंगरपुर (राज.)
क्रमांक: 2941 दिनांक: 22.03.2023
-: निविदा संशोधन :-
निविदा संख्या 31/2022-23
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 2893 दिनांक 14.03.2023 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना संख्या 31/2022-23 को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र.सं.	विवरण	पूर्व निर्धारित दिनांक	संशोधित दिनांक
1	ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की दिनांक	16.03.2023 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 22.03.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे	16.03.2023 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 03.04.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
2	निविदा शुल्क प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क व धरोहर राशि डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट जमा कराने की दिनांक	24.03.2023 दोपहर 1.00 बजे तक	05.04.2023 दोपहर 2.00 बजे तक
3	ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	27.03.2023 सायं 11.00 बजे	06.04.2023 सायं 04.00 बजे

NIB: PWD2223A4704,
UBN No.: PWD2223WSOB18628, PWD2223WSOB18629, PWD2223WSOB18630
डीआईपीआर/सी/5039/2023 (गजेन्द्र कुमार लोढ़ा), अधिशासी अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड सागवाड़ा

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF KNOWLEDGE TECHNOLOGIES
(Established through Act No.18 of 2008)
ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA
Ref.No:RGUKT-AP/E-Proc/SA, Catering and Statutory Audit tenders/ET31-ET33/2023, Dt.03.04.2023
E-PROCUREMENT-TENDER NOTICE
Online tenders are hereby invited for
1. Procurement of **6500** Laptops to the students of RGUKT
2. Providing Catering Services including Maintenance of Kitchen and Dining Halls for the messes of RGUKT four campuses.
3. Expression of Interest for Conduct of Statutory Audit for the financial years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22.

Interested bidders can download and submit bids online from **03.04.2023, 11:00 AM** through **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** (AP Portal). For further details please visit the University website: **www.rgukt.in**.
DIPR 1657PP/CL, Dt: 31-03-2023 **Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer (FAC), RGUKT**

INBRIEF

At 3,824, India sees sharp rise in daily COVID-19 cases

India on Sunday recorded a single-day jump of 3,824 COVID-19 infections, the highest in 184 days, while the number of active cases increased to 18,389, according to the Union Health Ministry data. With the fresh infections, India's COVID-19 tally rose to 4.47 crore. The death toll climbed to 5,30,881. At 18,389, the active cases comprise 0.04% of the total infections. The national COVID recovery rate was recorded at 98.77%, according to the Health Ministry website. The daily positivity rate stood at 2.87% and the weekly positivity rate at 2.24%. The number of people who have recovered surged to 4,41,73,335, while the case fatality rate was at 1.19%. PTI

No CAA, NRC protest banners allowed during IPL matches

The spectators coming to watch Indian Premier League (IPL) matches in Delhi, Mohali, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad will not be allowed to carry protest banners related to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), according to an advisory. Paytm Insider, a ticketing partner, has listed a few prohibited items, which include banners related to the CAA and NRC protest. The notification has been issued by franchises managing the ticketing of their respective home matches. The advisory was found while trying to book tickets for home matches of Delhi, Gujarat, Punjab and Hyderabad. PTI

CAT asked to dispose of cases pending for over 10 years

Citing 1,350 cases pending disposal for more than 10 years, a Parliamentary Committee has asked the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) to decide them on a priority basis, specifically the ones related to pensions and senior citizens. As many as 80,545 cases are pending in different Benches of the tribunal as on December 31, 2022. Of these, 16,661 cases are pending for up to one year; 46,534 for one to five years; 16,000 for five to 10 years; and 1,350 for more than 10 years, the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice said in its report. PTI

Khalistani outfit threatens Assam CM Himanta Sarma

A Khalistani outfit has advised Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to "stay out of the fight between pro-Khalistan Sikhs and the Indian government" or face dire consequences. A person, claiming to be Gurpatwant Singh Pannu of the separatist Sikh for Justice (SFJ), issued a warning. "Pro-Khalistan supporters imprisoned in Assam are being tortured. Listen carefully, Chief Minister Sarma, the fight is between pro-Khalistan Sikhs and the Indian regime. So, do not fall prey to this conflict," the person said. "If your government continues to torture and harass the six (aides of Waris Punjab De chief Amritpal Singh lodged in Dibrugarh Central Jail), you will be held accountable," he added.

Many medical students under stress: study

According to a study, 358 suicide deaths among medical students (125), residents (105) and physicians (128) had been reported between 2010 and 2019; additionally, 1,166 students dropped out of medical colleges; there were several appeals for intervention from students and parents

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

A recent Right to Information (RTI) response from the National Medical Commission (NMC) said that 64 MBBS and 55 postgraduate medical students died by suicide in the past five years.

Additionally, 1,166 students dropped out of medical colleges. Of these, 160 were studying MBBS and 1,006 were pursuing postgraduate courses.

Concerned over the incidents of suicide and suicidal ideation among medical students, the NMC, India's apex medical education regulatory authority, late in 2022 asked all medical colleges in the country to compile data on suicides, and on drop-outs among undergraduate and postgraduate students over the past five years.

The decision by the commission to seek this information came over the concern that ragging and overwork may have contributed to such outcomes, a senior Ministry of Health and Family Welfare official said.

He added that there were also several appeals for intervention from students and parents.

There is no clarity, however, on how it proposes to carry forward and use the collected data. The commission's response is to a reply sought by RTI activist Vivek Pandey.

Cause for concern: Up to 26% had exhibited suicide warning signs and only 13% had sought psychiatric help before ending their lives.

Those left behind

"A child ending its life is a death sentence for the parents," said Narendar, an Assistant Sub-Inspector with the Railway Protection Force of South Central Railway, who lost his daughter, Preethi Dharavath, 26, a month ago.

It is alleged that Dr. Dharavath, a first year postgraduate student of the Kakatiya Medical College (KMC) in Warangal of Telangana, took her life after being harassed at her workplace by a senior student. The matter is under investigation.

Unfortunately, Dr. Dharavath's parents are not the only ones dealing with the trauma of having lost their child in this tragic manner.

According to a study, 358 suicide deaths among medical students (125), residents (105) and physicians (128) had been reported between 2010 and 2019. Seven out of 10 suicides took place before the age of 30, said the study titled "Suicide deaths among medical students, residents and physicians in India spanning a decade (2010-2019): an exploratory study using online news portals and Google database".

Woman residents and physicians were younger than the male victims at the time of suicide. Anaesthesiology (22.4%) followed by obstetrics-gynaecology (16.0%) had the highest suicide deaths. Academic stress among medical students (45.2%) and residents (23.1%), and marital discord among physicians (26.7%) were the most noticeable reasons for suicide. Mental ill-health was the next most common reason in medical students (24%) and physicians (20%), while harassment (20.5%) was a cause for residents.

Up to 26% had exhibited suicide warning signs and only 13% had ever sought psychiatric help before ending their lives.

"Suicide is a complex, multifactorial issue. The gruelling 24x7 shifts, untimely working hours, distance from family, hostile work environment and unsupportive administration, sleep deprivation, financial hardships, examination stress, inhumane ragging, sometimes confounded by caste-based discrimination, and regionalism are some of the hardships that student doctors face," Rimy Dey, committee head, postgraduate studies, Indian Medical Association-Junior Doctors Network, said.

Suicide and self-harm are a major health and societal issue worldwide, with the greatest burden occurring in low-income and middle-income countries, *The Lancet Psychiatry* said in a 2019 article.

Those who require assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts may contact Aasra (022-27546669) or the Vandrevala Foundation (18602662345/ 18002333330).

India wants to become a $1-tn tourism economy by 2047, says Kishan Reddy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India wants to be a $1-trillion tourism economy with 100 million international visitors by 2047, the centenary year of its Independence, the government said on Sunday.

In order to achieve this, the focus is being put on various government-led initiatives in the public-private partnership (PPP) mode, Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy said, addressing the second G-20 Tourism Working Group (TWG) meeting in Siliguri, West Bengal.

Mr. Reddy said that the vision of the second G-20 TWG meeting was to project domestic tourism in a mission mode.

"It will also make India maximise its potential in the tourism sector," he added.

In order to give an impetus to the tourism sector this year, the government is observing 'Vision India-2023', a programme which invites the entire world to explore India, the Union Tourism Minister said.

Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy at the G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Siliguri on Sunday. PTI

The Union Minister also said at the first G-20 TWG meeting hosted in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat that more than 200 Buddhists monasteries, 40 UNESCO-listed world heritage sites, State and national archaeological sites, many living temples, and prayer centres had been highlighted.

"Priority was given to green tourism, digitisation, skilling, tourism MSMEs and destination management," he said.

Two mega trails

Mr. Reddy also said that two mega adventure tourism trails would be launched in the Himalayas and the Ganga this year.

"The Ministry will work with States and industries for development of the two trails in the year 2023," he said.

These trails would be followed by others such as the Narmada trail from Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh to the Arabian sea, the Cauvery river trail, the West Coast trail from Kutch to Kanniyakumari, and the East Coast trail from West Bengal to Kanyakumari.

Observing that India's topography makes the country an ideal destination for sustainable adventure tourism, the government is giving it a major push, the Union Minister added.

ICCR to build ambassador programme among foreign students in India

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is aiming to expand the country's artistic and creative footprint globally, by tapping into the experiences of foreign students studying here. It hopes that more than 48,000 foreign students in India will be brand ambassadors of the national heritage, tourist destinations, textiles, yoga, ayurveda and craft.

Beginning this year, the ICCR will start E-3 or 'exit engagement evenings' with foreign students, beginning three or four months before they finish their courses in various Central and State universities, institutes such as the National Institutes of Technology and agricultural colleges.

The engagements will include visits to places of national importance. This "soft diplomacy" is meant to spread the India story when students go back to their home countries.

At present, the ICCR has zeroed in on the Khadi Commission, the Indian Tourism Development Corporation and the Department of Ayush to hold these evenings with the students.

The number of foreign students enrolled in Indian institutions was 48,035 in 2020-21, a marginal dip from 49,348 in 2019-20. FILE PHOTO

There are plans to rope in the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), which promotes produce and products of tribes.

"The idea is that they bring back some business to this country, besides maintaining their Indian linkages," said Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, president, ICCR.

According to the latest All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) brought out by the Ministry of Education, the number of foreign students enrolled in Indian higher education institutions was 48,035 in 2020-21, a marginal dip from 49,348 in 2019-20.

Rajeev Sijariya, international students' adviser in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, said as a pilot project, the Ministry of Tourism wants to take foreign students to Parliament and the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya.

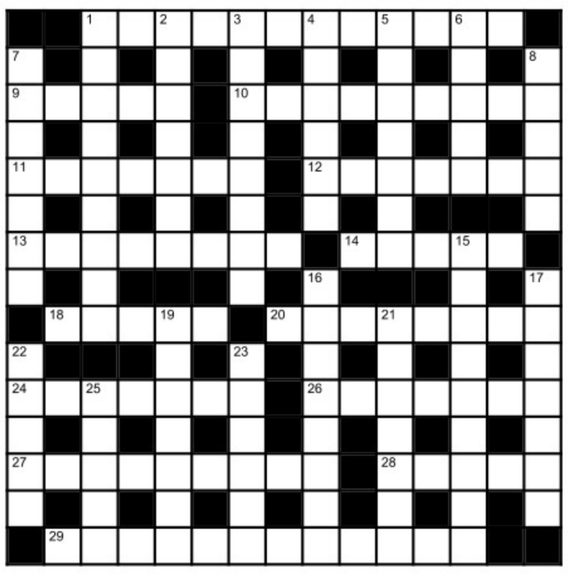
In April 2022, the ICCR launched a website, called the India Alumni Portal, as a platform to connect with the foreign students around the world who have studied in India. The portal is envisaged to be a single platform for all foreign scholars to register, interact, and maintain their Indian links.

TH CROSSWORD + 13829

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Ackee served in furtively looking military operation (12)
9 Times when commoners heartily get stuck in mad rush (5)
10 He assists doctors and patients initially and provided in-built advanced intensive care (9)
11 Stylish female in rule on the banks of England (7)
12 Moved into pier at sea in an act of self-indulgence (3-4)
13 They learn tricks to acquire degree online (8)
14 Essentially posh vehicle gets award (5)
18 Beheaded symbolic figure's necktie (5)
20 Cosmetic love failing in a generation (4,4)
24 Insane dictator sacrificed daughter for cheese (7)
26 Secure giant reportedly (7)
27 Fancy dress stripped? No harm perhaps for master of ceremonies (9)
28 Site around university is involved in cases (5)
29 Check table to order and complete the task in time (4,3,5)

Down

1 Garments that add even numbers (4,5)
2 Bees can dance in default (7)
3 Speed up past exercise by changing diet (8)
4 Deserved attention on upcoming animal home (6)
5 Clean up, wash up small guns (3-4)
6 Zero held back in grid anagram (5)
7 Nurse in hospital goes after most richest doctor (7)
8 Cycling struggles in space (5)
15 Impressed with flaming US racket carrying original weapons (9)
16 Spiritual leader of Mutt dismissed on embarrassing complaint (8)
17 One who dies in this way has invited drinkers regularly (7)
19 Spot settlement (7)
21 Painter from old Greece maybe without drawing equipment originally (2,5)
22 Paper gold on horseback (5)
23 Helper leaves expedition for maiden love (6)
25 Seal of approval mostly for fund (5)

SUDOKU

		4		6				1
	1		4		8		5	
5		8			3			
					2			4
4		2				6		8
6			8					
			1			3		5
	8		2		4		9	
9				3		1		

No.SS5757 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

B	O	A	R	D		U	N	P	I	E	R	C	E	D
E		N		I		N		E		L		R		E
M	E	N	I	S	C	I		R	E	L	E	A	S	E
U		O		A		T		S		I		Z		P
S	Q	U	A	R	E		N	E	O	P	H	Y	T	E
E		N		M		A		V		S				S
D	I	C	E		K	I	N	E	T	I	C	A	R	T
		E		E		R		R		S		E		
M	A	S	S	N	U	M	B	E	R		D	R	A	W
A				D		A		D		D		O		A
R	E	E	X	P	O	R	T		A	R	M	P	I	T
K		X		O		S		L		Y		L		C
O	S	T	R	I	C	H		E	P	I	T	A	P	H
F		O		N		A		G		C		N		I
F	O	L	K	T	A	L	E	S		E	J	E	C	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	9	4	8	1	6	2	5	3
8	5	1	7	3	2	4	6	9
2	3	6	5	9	4	1	7	8
1	7	9	2	4	8	5	3	6
5	4	3	1	6	7	9	8	2
6	2	8	3	5	9	7	4	1
3	8	2	9	7	5	6	1	4
4	1	7	6	2	3	8	9	5
9	6	5	4	8	1	3	2	7

FAITH

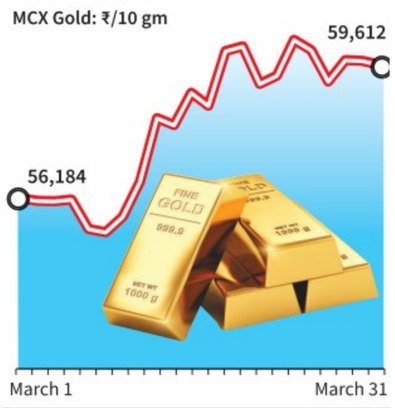
Philosophical truths

Cows serve to illustrate philosophical truths to us, said Velukkudi Krishnan, in a discourse. Cows come in different colours, but the milk they yield is always white. Likewise, the atmas that inhabit different bodies are all alike. While different people have different features and physical structures, the atma is the same in everyone, just as milk from every cow is white. Andal uses the word 'pala', meaning many, in her "katru karavai' pasuram, indicating Krishna's role as the One who milked a multitude of cows. Likewise, there are many jivatmas, but only one Paramatma.

Arulala Perumal Emperumanar, a disciple of Ramanujacharya, wrote a work called Jnana Saram, where he talks of the love of a cow for its new born calf. The cow, soon after giving birth, cleans the calf, by licking the afterbirth and blood from the body of the calf. What one would think of as unclean seems desirable to the cow, because of its love for its calf. Likewise, Lord Narayana does not shun us because of our mistakes, but gives us His protection wholeheartedly. Because of this quality of vatsalya, He sees even our demerits as our merits.

A dhyana sloka for Srimad Bhagavatam says that wherever Srimad Bhagavatam is recited, Krishna will be present there. This is akin to a cow always following its calf. One who recites the Bhagavata Purana is like a calf, and Lord Krishna is the mother cow. There is a place called Kaamya vana, not far from Brindavan. It is said that Krishna used to lead the calves to a pond here, called Vimala Kunda. He would bend over, His hands behind His back, and show the calves how to scoop up water using their tongues.

All that glitters is gold



Gold, silver regain mojo

PRECIOUSMETALS

B.Krishnakumar

After a bout of weakness in February, precious metals regained their sheen in March. Both gold and silver managed to post the highest monthly gains since May 2021.

Concerns on the turmoil in the banking sector in the U.S. and Europe played a key role in bolstering sentiment towards the precious metals. The weakness in the U.S. dollar also played a role in helping precious metals close on a positive note last month.

As a result, Comex gold gained 8.1% in March to end the month at $1,986.2 per ounce. The rally in the white metal was much more pronounced with Comex silver gaining 14.6% to settle at $24.15 at the end of March.

Mirroring the strength in the global markets, the prices of gold and silver closed on a strong note in the domestic markets as well. MCX gold gained 6.3% to settle at ₹59,612 per 10 grams. MCX silver closed 11.7% higher to end March at ₹72,218 per kilogram.

The strength in Comex gold pushed the price well beyond the target zone of $1,885-$1,890 mentioned in March. Comex gold also managed to move past the positive trigger level of $1,940 that was mentioned last month.

As a result, the short-term outlook is positive and Comex gold is likely to rise to the immediate target of $2,025-2,030 range. This positive outlook would be invalidated if the price falls below the support level of $1,920. As long as the price sustains above $1,920, there would be a strong case for a rise to the above target zone.

Similar to gold, Comex silver, too, moved beyond the target zone of $22.20-$22.60 mentioned last month. After reaching a high of $23.7 on March 24, the price of Comex silver has been consolidating in a tight range in the past few days. The recent rise in silver is likely to continue and the price could head to the next target of $25.50-26.25.

This view would be invalidated if the price falls below $22.5.

Domestic market moves

In the domestic market, MCX gold moved well beyond the target zone of ₹56,500-57,500 mentioned in March. In the short-term, the price could head higher to the immediate target of ₹60,800-61,500.

A fall below ₹59,000 would invalidate the possibility of a short-term rise.

MCX silver, too, reached the target zone of ₹67,500-68,000 mentioned last month. The short-term outlook for silver is positive and the price could reach the next target of ₹74,500-75,000.

A fall below ₹68,500 would negate the case for a rise to ₹74,500-75,000.

To summarise, the recent strength witnessed in precious metals is likely to spill over in the month of April too. The positive outlook would be valid as long as the price sustains above the downside levels mentioned above.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst / trader. The views and opinions featured in this column are based on the analysis of short-term price movement in gold and silver futures at COMEX & Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice.)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Don't make taxes your investment yardstick

With the recent change in taxation rules, a tax-free portion of REITs and InVITs distribution has been brought into tax net and high-value insurance policies will no longer be tax-exempt

MONEY MATTERS

Bhavana Acharya

A Friday a couple of weeks ago saw the taxation rules completely change for debt mutual funds. This change did away with the long-term capital gains benefit that debt funds enjoyed until now. This change comes after several others in the recent Budget that changed the tax impact for different financial products. For example, a hitherto tax-free portion of REITs and InVITs distribution has been brought into the tax net, high-value insurance policies will no longer be tax-exempt, interest on EPF contributions over a threshold are no longer tax free, and so on.

At the same time, the government is also nudging tax payers into opting for the new tax regime. The new regime, unlike the old regime, offers no deductions on specific investments such as ELSS, EPF, and so on.

Now, one can debate over the whys and wherefores of these developments. But meanwhile, it's important to be cognisant of what these developments indicate.

Unsuitable decisions

With tax rules on different products changing for a wide variety of reasons, there is no long-term certainty. Therefore, deciding on which investments to make for the long-term using taxes alone can lead you into making unsuitable investment decisions or miss out on good ones.

For example, consider the new tax rules for debt mutual funds that remove the long-term indexation benefits. With equity-oriented funds still enjoying advantageous taxation, you may be pushed into loading up on these instead. More, you may be met with sales pitches to invest in hybrid funds such as balanced advantage funds for their higher returns, relatively lower risk compared to pure equity funds, and look - better taxation! But these funds aren't direct substitutes for debt funds and are much more volatile. Altering your asset allocation to skew towards equity simply because of the heavier tax impact in debt options such as deposits, bonds or debt funds would make your investments far riskier and so less suitable for you.

It is true that tax treatment changes the return profile of an investment. However, it does not remove its viability. For example, bank fixed deposits haven't really been tax-efficient - but they are still worth investing in given their safety, and are especially useful for purposes such as maintaining an emergency fund. Similarly, while the NPS may not enjoy the same level of tax breaks in the new regime compared with the old, it still makes for a good retirement vehicle.

> Evaluate your investment choices primarily on the nature of that investment, its suitability for your portfolio, and what your portfolio needs

Therefore, as far as taxation on different products goes, be prepared for changes and avoid making investments only for the sake of tax advantages. Evaluate your investment choices primarily on the nature of that investment, its suitability for your portfolio, and what your portfolio needs.

No handholding

The deductions allowed under the old tax regime were intended to incentivise long-term savings and investments, among others. With the nudge towards the new tax regime, the indication is that government will not handhold you into saving by doing away with investment-driven deductions. It is up to each individual to make prudent choices for their own finances and investments.

For many of you, more than one investment decision would have been made simply because of the tax deduction available - such as a poor returning money-back policy, or buying a second house merely for home loan deductions. From a financial product manufacturer's side, some products were aimed simply at addressing the tax breaks, not considering whether they were even suitable as a sound investment. All of this can change if tax deductions are phased out.

So, what does this mean? As mentioned above, evaluating investments based on their own merit becomes important. Performance will start mattering more, and the individual benefits of each investment will show up in sharper perspective in the absence of tax sops. Manufacturers will also no longer take guise under tax deduction in the face of poor returns! You will think twice about investing in more insurance policies and incurring heavy EMIs where it is not necessary.

For example, instead of locking large premiums in unsuitable insurance policies or large EMIs, you could deploy into equity markets through mutual funds (even just index funds or ETFs) or stocks. You could enhance life cover through term insurance, or get a better health insurance plan. You could diversify away from just provident funds into government or corporate bonds or the RBI Floating Rate bonds.

Ultimately, while taxes play an important role, don't set this as the primary reason for your investment choices.

(The writer is co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

Bank deposits or bond funds?

THINKINVESTOR

The primary objective of a goal-based portfolio is to aim for stable returns, which bank deposits can provide with some credit risk

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Previously in this column, we discussed why an optimal goal-based portfolio should contain equity funds (preferably passive funds) and bank fixed deposits. The recent change in tax laws on bond funds strengthens this argument; returns on such funds will henceforth be added to your income and taxed at your marginal tax rate instead of being taxed as long-term capital gains if held for more than 36 months. In this article, we revisit the argument why bank deposits are preferable for goal-based portfolios.

Investment products with income returns are suitable for goal-based portfolios as they reduce the uncertainty associated with market-oriented investments. But you may have to take on other risks to achieve such stable returns. For instance, investment in government bonds provide stable cash flows but exposes you to reinvestment risk - the risk that you may be unable to reinvest interest incomes on the bond at a required rate to achieve your life goal. The point is that you should choose investments whose associated risks you are willing to bear. It is in this context that you should compare bank deposits with bond funds. You know the maturity value when you invest in cumulative bank deposits and recurring deposits. The trade-off is that you should be willing to take some credit risk and accept lower returns for knowing the cash flows you will receive at maturity.

In contrast, bond funds can generate higher returns because capital appreciation is the primary source of returns. Bond prices go up when interest rates come down. And a bond fund's net asset value (NAV) goes up when bond prices move up. But there is a limit to how much return bond funds can generate because interest rates typically do not decline significantly. On the other hand, interest rates can go up when inflation expectation is high. That is when bond prices go down, dragging down the bond fund's NAV. The primary objective of a goal-based portfolio is to aim for stable returns, which bank deposits can provide with some amount of credit risk. But such deposits offer lower post-tax returns, requiring you to seek other investments that offer higher upside potential (read equity funds). True, bond funds offer some upside potential, but with uncertain returns as NAVs are marked to market. You should prefer income returns from one asset class and upside potential from another in your goal-based portfolios. Hence, the argument for bank fixed deposits and equity funds.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.35	8.00	7.20
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.60	7.15	7.15	7.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.20	7.70	7.75	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.10	6.00	5.75	5.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.41	7.50	8.00	8.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.15	7.25	8.10	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.51	6.85	7.25	7.50
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	6.50	7.20	7.20
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.26	6.75	7.00	7.00
Bandhan Bank	8.00	7.25	7.25	5.85
CSB Bank	7.50	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	6.25	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	8.00	7.25	7.60	7.60
HDFC Bank	7.10	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.75	6.75	7.75	7.00
IndusInd Bank	7.75	7.50	7.75	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.25	7.25	6.50	6.50
Karnataka Bank	7.50	7.00	5.75	5.75
Karur Vysya Bank	7.50	7.00	7.00	6.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.20	7.00	6.50	6.20
RBL Bank	7.80	7.00	7.00	7.00
SBM Bank India	8.40	7.05	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.40	6.60	6.50	6.00
TMB	8.00	7.25	6.50	6.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.05	6.75	6.75	6.50
Bank of India	7.05	6.00	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.00	6.25	6.00	5.75
Canara Bank	7.15	6.75	6.50	6.50
Indian Bank	7.10*	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.00	6.45	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.80	7.00	6.50
State Bank of India	7.10	6.80	d	6.50
Union Bank of India	7.30	6.30	7.30	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.55	6.75	6.25	6.25
Foreign Banks				
HSBC Bank	7.50	4.00	7.00	6.00

*7.15% p.a. interest rate for women depositors

FD rates as on March 30 **Source:Paisabazaar.com**

Home Loan Interest Rates

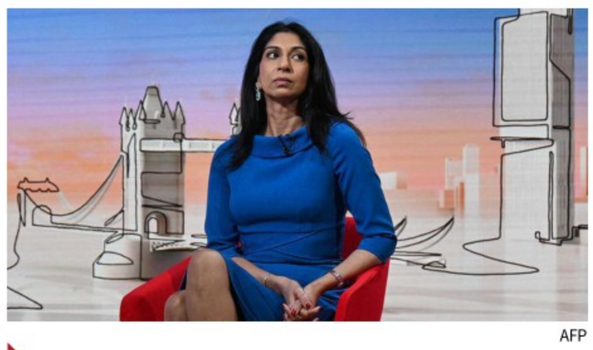
Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India*	8.50-10.15	8.50-10.05	8.50-10.05
Bank of Baroda	8.50-10.65	8.50-10.65	8.50-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.75-10.75	8.75-10.95	8.75-10.95
Punjab National Bank	8.65-9.60	8.60-9.50	8.60-9.50
Bank of India	8.85-10.85	8.85-10.85	8.85-10.85
Canara Bank	8.85-11.25	8.85-11.25	8.85-11.25
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.85-9.95	8.85-9.95	8.85-9.95
Indian Overseas Bank	9.55-10.95	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards
Indian Bank	8.45-10.40	8.45-10.40	8.45-10.40
Central Bank of India	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards
ICICI Bank	9.00-9.80	9.00-9.95	9.00-10.05
Axis Bank	8.75-12.70	8.75-12.70	8.75-9.15
HSBC Bank	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards
South Indian Bank	9.85-12.60	9.85-12.60	9.85-12.60
Karur Vysya Bank	9.23-12.13	9.23-12.13	9.23-12.13
Karnataka Bank	9.08-10.25	9.08-10.25	9.08-10.35
Federal Bank	10.15-10.20	10.20-10.25	10.25-10.30
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	9.10-9.60	9.10-9.60	9.10-9.60
Bandhan Bank	9.15-14.00	9.15-13.32	9.15-13.32
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.45-10.10	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.50
HDFC Ltd.	8.50-10.35	8.50-10.60	8.50-10.70
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.70 onwards	8.70 onwards	8.70 onwards
Tata Capital	8.95 onwards	8.95 onwards	8.95 onwards
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-13.00	8.50-10.85
GIC Housing Finance	8.45 onwards	8.45 onwards	8.45 onwards
Repco Home Finance	9.40 onwards	9.40 onwards	9.40 onwards
Indiabulls Housing	8.75 onwards	8.75 onwards	8.75 onwards
Aditya Birla Capital	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75
ICICI Home Finance	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards

*Concession of 0.10% on the applicable interest rates for Shaurya and Shaurya Flexi Home Loans

Rates as on March 29 **Source:Paisabazaar.com**

LONDON

U.K. Interior Minister Braverman says Rwanda is safe for migrants

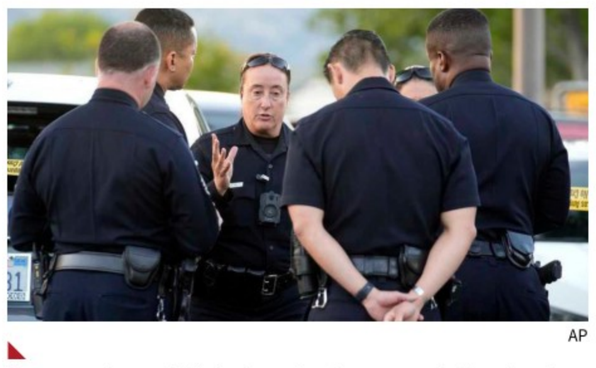


AFP

Britain's Interior Minister Suella Braverman said she was convinced Rwanda was a safe country to resettle migrants who had arrived in Britain illegally. The U.K. government is hoping to send thousands of migrants to the East African country to deter asylum seekers crossing the English Channel from France on small boats. REUTERS

OKLAHOMA CITY

3 killed, 3 injured in shooting at Oklahoma City bar, say police



AP

Three people were killed and another three wounded in a shooting inside an Oklahoma City bar on Saturday night, the police said. One person was in critical condition and two others suffered non-life-threatening injuries around 9 p.m. at the Whiskey Barrel Saloon, Lt. Jeff Cooper, a spokesperson, said on Sunday. AP

WASHINGTON

NYT loses Twitter verification tag; Musk calls firm as 'propaganda'

AP

Twitter removed the gold "verified" marker from the New York Times' main account, as CEO Elon Musk bashed the news organisation as "propaganda" on Sunday. Mr. Musk took over the microblogging platform last year and made a priority of opening the "blue checkmark," to paying subscribers. AFP

TOKYO

Japan protests China's detention of citizen over espionage charges

REUTERS

Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi protested in a meeting on Sunday with his Chinese counterpart the detention of a Japanese national in Beijing. During his talks with Qin Gang, Mr. Hayashi demanded the release of an employee of a pharmaceutical company, allegedly detained in Beijing last month for spying. AP

At least 26 killed as tornadoes pummel U.S. midwest, south

Associated Press
WYNNE

Storms that dropped possibly dozens of tornadoes killed at least 26 people in small towns and big cities across the south and midwest of U.S., tearing a path through the Arkansas capital, collapsing the roof of a packed concert venue in Illinois and stunning people on Saturday with the damage's scope.

Confirmed or suspected tornadoes in at least eight States destroyed homes and businesses, splintered trees and laid waste to neighborhoods across a broad swath of the country. The dead included at least nine in one Tennessee county, four in Wynne, Arkansas, three in Sullivan, Indiana, and four in Illinois.

Other deaths from the storms that hit Friday night into Saturday were reported in Alabama and Mississippi, along with one near Little Rock, Arkansas, where city officials said more than 2,600 buildings were in a tornado's path.

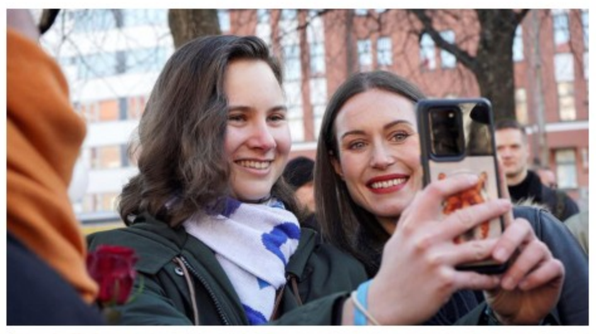
Residents of Wynne, a community of about 8,000 people 80 kilometres west of Memphis, Tennessee, woke on Saturday to find the high school's roof shredded and its windows blown out. Huge trees lay on the ground, their stumps reduced to nubs. Broken walls, windows and roofs pocked homes and businesses.

Debris lay scattered inside the shells of homes and on lawns: clothing, insulation, toys, splintered furniture, a pickup truck with its windows shattered. Ashley Macmillan said she, her husband and their children huddled with their dogs in a small bathroom as a tornado passed, "praying and saying goodbye to each other, because we thought we were dead". A falling tree seriously damaged their home, but they were unhurt.

Finns vote in tight election as PM Marin seeks reelection

The election comes just days ahead of Finland's formal accession to the NATO alliance; the PM had been praised for her handling of the COVID-19 pandemic but slammed for the rising public debt

Agence France-Presse
HELSINKI



Tough fight: Finland's PM Sanna Marin greets voters at a Social Democrat campaign rally in Helsinki on Saturday. REUTERS

Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin's Social Democrats were tied with the centre-right National Coalition in partial results from Sunday's general election, with the far right trailing in third place.

Ms. Marin, who became the world's youngest Prime Minister in 2019 at age 34, is fighting for a second term just days before Finland's historic accession to the NATO defence alliance.

With almost half of votes counted, including ballots cast in advance, the conservative National Coalition Party and the Social Democrats (SDP) each had 20.6%, followed by the far-right Finns Party with 18.6%.

An exit poll published by Finland's MTV television meanwhile put the Social Democrats in first place, with 20.2%, compared with 19.9% for the National Coalition and 18.9% for the Finns Party.

"Let's take our time, but now we have a good start, a very good start," National Coalition leader Petteri Orpo told public broadcaster Yle after the first results ticked in.

The biggest party in parliament traditionally gets the first chance to build a government, and since the 1990s that party has always claimed the Prime Minister's office.

Ms. Marin, who has struggled to convert her overwhelming popularity into support for her SDP, said she was optimistic.

"I am really grateful for all the votes that have been cast so far and let's hope that the election day votes will be another big pot," she told Yle.

Ms. Marin is Finland's most popular Prime Minister this century, according to polls, and has made headlines internationally for her hard line against Finland's eastern neighbour Russia. She is a popular speaker at the World Economic Forum in Davos and has been featured on the cover of *Time Magazine* and in *Vogue*.

Yet while some view her as a strong leader who deftly navigated the COVID-19 pandemic and the NATO membership process, others see the rising public debt on her watch and backlash over video clips of her partying as signs of inexperience.

As a result, her SDP party has struggled to gain wider support. "I liked Marin... but I don't personally believe that her ideas about economic policy are something she and her government can actually achieve," 29-year-old Kasper Kylmala said.

Bajwa put pressure on me for friendly ties with India: Khan

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

Imran Khan

Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan has claimed that the then Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa put pressure on him to develop friendly ties with India.

Relations between India and Pakistan have often been strained over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

However, the ties nosedived after India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated the State into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

"Gen. Bajwa wanted me to develop friendly ties with India. He put pressure on me for this and it was one of the reasons our relationship deteriorated," Mr. Khan claimed during an interaction with social media journalists at his Lahore's Zaman Park residence on Saturday evening. He, however, reiterated his stance that Pakistan should only hold peace talks with India provided New Delhi restores the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

India has repeatedly told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman further said that what General Bajwa (retd) did to Pakistan even an enemy couldn't do. "Bajwa should be held accountable by the army," he said.

Blast kills military blogger in Russia

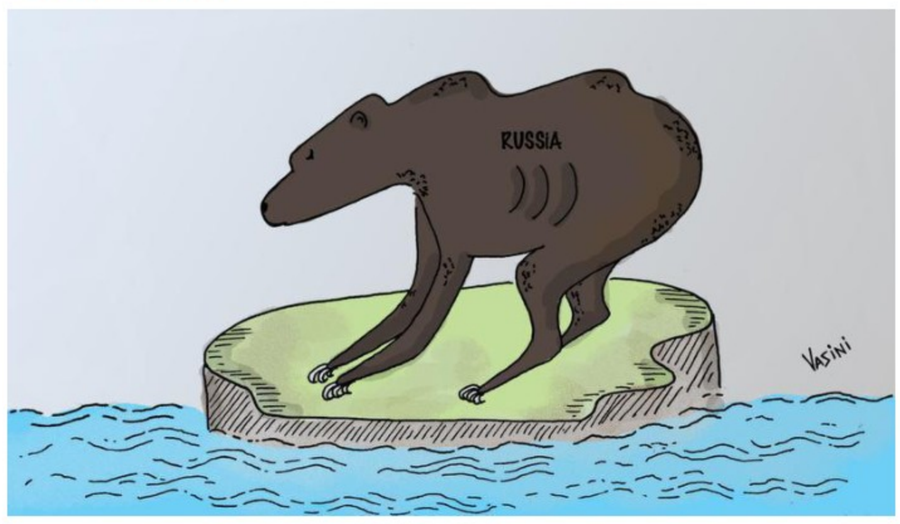
Associated Press

An explosion tore through a cafe in Russia's second-largest city on Sunday, killing a prominent military blogger who had supported the fighting in Ukraine. Russia's Interior Ministry said more than a dozen people were wounded.

Russian news reports said blogger Vladlen Tatarsky was killed and 16 people were hurt in the explosion at the Street Food Bar No. 1 cafe in St. Petersburg. The reports did not mention any claim of responsibility or provide details beyond saying that a cafe visitor carried an "explosive device."

The Interior Ministry said everyone at the cafe at the time of the blast was being "checked for involvement."

On the draw



Saudi Arabia, other oil giants announce cuts in production

Reuters
DUBAI

Saudi Arabia and other OPEC+ oil producers on Sunday announced further cuts in their production amounting to around 1.16 million barrels per day in a surprise move they said was aimed at supporting market stability.

Russia's Deputy Prime Minister also said Moscow would extend a voluntary cut of 500,000 bpd until the end of 2023.

Huge cut by UAE

The United Arab Emirates said it would cut production by 144,000 bpd, Kuwait announced a cut of 128,000 bpd while Iraq said it would cut output by 211,000 bpd and Oman announced a cut of 40,000 bpd. Algeria said it would cut its output by 48,000 bpd. The Saudi Energy Ministry said in a statement that the kingdom's voluntary cut was a precautionary measure aimed at supporting the stability of the oil market.

The latest reductions could lift oil prices by $10 per barrel, the head of investment firm Pickering Energy Partners said on Sunday.

Sport

Sindhu falters at the final hurdle, loses to Tunjung

MADRID MASTERS

Press Trust of India
MADRID

Sindhu. GETTY IMAGES

P.V. Sindhu on Sunday suffered a demoralising straight-game loss against Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in the summit clash of the Madrid Spain Masters Super 300 badminton tournament here.

Clueless

Sindhu, who has slipped out of the elite top-10 last Tuesday after a series of early exits following her return from a five-month long injury lay-off, looked completely clueless during her 8-21, 8-21 demolition at the hands of World No. 12 Tunjung.

Despite coming into the finals with a dominating 7-0 record against the 23-year-old Indonesian, Sindhu looked a pale shadow of her self as an opportunity to seal her first crown in eight months slipped out of her hands.

Flashes of brilliance

However, it was a good campaign for the Indian, who showed flashes of her brilliance during a week where she didn't drop a game en route to the title clash. Sindhu currently trains under Vidhi Chaudhary following the exit of Korea's Park Tae Sang.

Other results:

Men: Kenta Nishimoto (Jpn) bt Kanta Tsuneyama (Jpn) 15-21, 21-18, 21-19.

Rugved, Prajwal stamp their class in the SX1 class

NATL. SUPERCROSS

Rayan Rozario
COIMBATORE

In control: Rugved of Petronas TVS worked hard both on the ground and in the air to win the second race in style. M. PERIASAMY

Petronas TVS Racing stars Rugved Bharguje and V. Prajwal stamped their class with a race win each in the premier SX1 class, in the season's opening round of the FMSCI MRF MOGRIP National supercross championship here on Sunday.

Prajwal challenged Rugved right at the start of the day. The latter fought hard but the former displayed great skill and technique to finish on top.

It was payback time for Rugved, the defending champion, in the second race which was red-flagged in the first lap and had to be restarted. But Rugved stayed calm and quickly shot into the lead and kept working hard both on the ground and in the air to win it in style.

Petronas TVS Racing was confident of topping the charts in the Indian Experts Class, but found the Team Hero boys M. Karan Kumar and T. Arun hard nuts to crack. However, Banteilang Jerwa went that extra mile to finish on top of the podium.

The results (provisional):

Class 1, SX1 (A&B): Group A (Stroke 2/4, upto 500cc): 1. Rugved Barguje (Petronas TVS Racing, 17, 20, 37 points); 2. V. Prajwal (Petronas TVS, 20, 15, 35); 3. Ikshan Shanbhag (Petronas TVS, 15, 13, 28).

Class 2, SX2 (A&B): Group A (Stroke 2/4, upto 500cc): 1. Shlok Ghorpade (Satara, 20, 27, 37); 2. Sarthak Chavan (Pune, 13, 20, 33); 3. Aman Varghese (Ernakulam, 17, 15, 32).

Class 3, Novice: Group C (Stroke 2/4, upto 260cc, Moto 1): 1. Sachin (Petronas TVS, 20); 2. M. Udayakumar (Cbe, 17); 3, Shailesh Kumar (Cbe, 15).

Class 4, Locals: Group B (Stroke 2/4, upto 260cc, Moto 1): 1. M. Karan Kumar (Team Hero, 20); 2. R. Sabrish (Cbe, 17); 3. L. Nitya (Cbe, 15).

Class 5, Indian Experts: Group C (Stroke 2/4, upto 260cc, Moto 1): 1. Banteilang Jerwa (Petronas TVS, 20); 2. M. Karan Kumar (Team Hero, 17); 3. T. Arun (Team Hero, 15).

Class 6, Private Experts: Group C (Stroke 2/4, upto 260cc, Moto 1): 1. L. Nathan (Cbe, 20); 2. M. Udayakumar (Cbe, 17); 3. Shaliesh Kumar (Cbe, 15).

Class 7, Junior SX 1: Group A (Stroke 2/4, upto 250cc, Moto 2): 1. Shlok Ghorpade (Satara, 20, 20, 40); 2. Jinendra Sangave (Kolhapur, 17, 17, 34); 3. V. Wilmer (Kochi, 15, 15, 30).

Class 8 Junior SX2: Group A (Stroke 2/4, upto 100cc, Moto 2): 1. C. Bhairav (Bng, 17, 20, 37); 2. J. Sujan (Cbe, 20, 17, 37); 3. Darshit Chavan (15, 10, 25).

BIG SETBACK

Injured Williamson to return home, miss rest of season

Kane Williamson was on Sunday ruled out of the rest of the IPL season with a knee injury, in a major blow to defending champion Gujarat Titans. "It is sad to lose Kane to injury. We wish him a speedy recovery, with the hope of seeing him in action very soon," Gujarat director of cricket Vikram Solanki said.

AIDEN'S DAY OUT

Markram's 175 leads South Africa to thumping win against Netherlands

South Africa rode on Aiden Markram's 175 to beat the Netherlands by 146 runs in the third ODI in Johannesburg on Sunday.
The scores: South Africa 370/8 in 50 overs (Aiden Markram 175, David Miller 91) bt Netherlands 224 in 39.1 overs (Musa Ahmed 61, Max O'Dowd 47, Scott Edwards 42, Sisanda Magala 5/43).

UNVEILED

ICC reveals logo for 2023 ODI World Cup to be held in India

ICC on Sunday unveiled the logo of the upcoming 2023 World Cup on the same day India, led by M.S. Dhoni, stood victorious over Sri Lanka to lift the ICC trophy in 2011. Six months out from the flagship event, the Cricket World Cup has been developed with 'Navarasa', nine emotions the game's audiences experience.

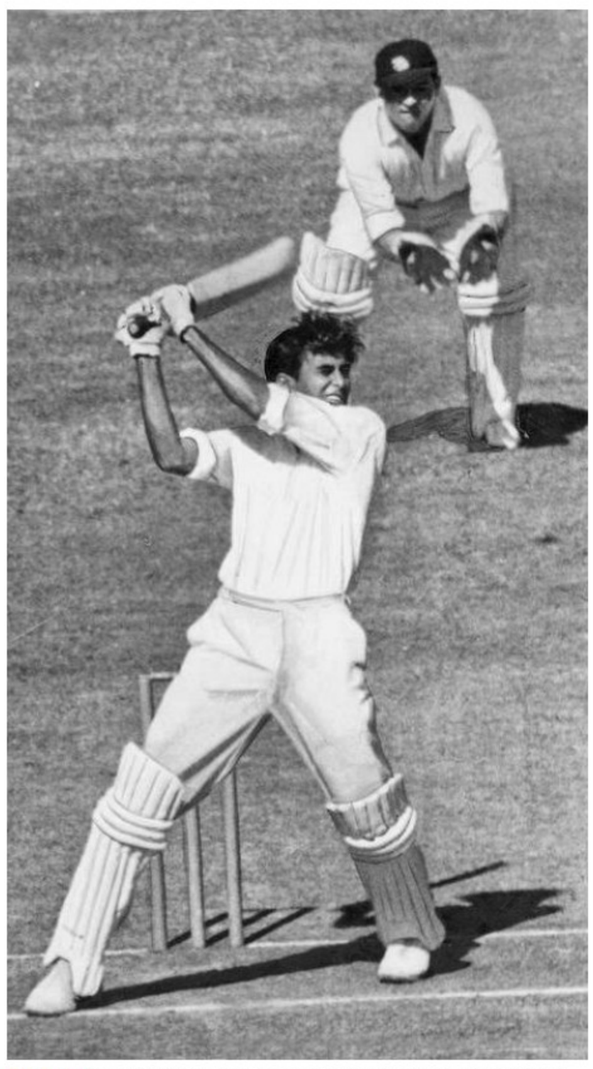
SWEET REVENGE

Willock and Wilson strike as Newcastle stuns Man United

Joe Willock, *left in pic*, and Callum Wilson (not in pic), led Newcastle to a 2-0 win over Manchester United in the Premier League and above its rival in the race for Champions League qualification on Sunday. The win gained Newcastle a measure of revenge for its English League Cup final loss to United in February.

Debonair Durani, star of yesteryear, passes away

A crowd favourite, he packed a punch with the bat and was also a handy left-arm orthodox bowler; he was instrumental in India defeating England 2-0 in the historic five-Test series in 1961-62



Dasher: Durani was known for his ability to hit sixes on demand. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Salim Durani, the debonair India cricketer of the 1960s with movie-star looks, a puckish sense of humour and a penchant for hitting monstrous sixes on demand, died on Sunday. He was 88.

His death was confirmed by sources close to the family. He had been living with his younger brother, Jahangir Durani, in Jamnagar, Gujarat. Durani had undergone a proximal femoral nail surgery after he broke his thigh bone in a fall in January this year.

Evergreen

Durani, who packed a punch with the bat and was also a handy left-arm orthodox bowler, played 29 Tests and was instrumental in India defeating England 2-0 in the historic five-match Test series in 1961-62, picking up eight and 10 wickets in the team's victories at Calcutta and Madras respectively.

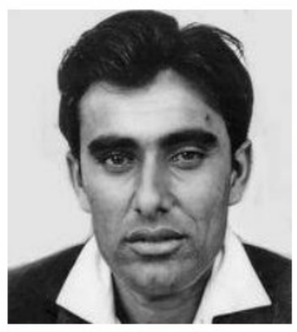
Durani, known for his fine dressing style and swagger, scored just one century though he had seven fifties in the 50 innings he played for the country, scoring 1,202 runs.

A decade after the epic triumph against England, he played a key role in helping India to victory against the West Indies in Port of Spain, dismissing both Clive Lloyd and Sir Garfield Sobers.

The star cricketer also dabbled in Bollywood, starring opposite renowned actor Parveen Babi in the movie Charitra in 1973.

Durani made his Test debut against Australia in 1960 at Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium, and played his last international match – then restricted to the traditional, five-day format – against England in February 1973 at the venue where he had started his international career.

A joy to watch when in full flow, Durani had the ability to demolish any bowling attack on his day, though it was as a bowler he had first made his mark for India. India's first Arjuna Award winner in cricket, Durani was a tall man and could get the ball to lift and turn on any surface with a bit of help.



Learning from a legend: Durani always found time to pass on his knowledge to budding cricketers. FILE PHOTO

Career in numbers

Batting	M	Runs	HS	Avg.	100s/50s
Tests	29	1202	104	25.04	1/7
First Class	170	8545	137*	33.37	14/45
Bowling	**M**	**Wkts**	**BBI**	**SR**	**5WI/10WM**
Tests	29	75	6/73	85.9	3/1
First Class	170	484	8/99	58.1	21/2

Tributes to Durani

An institution in himself. On and off the field, he was known for his style. Pained by his demise

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

Played the game with grace, flair and a lot of passion. We have lost one of our iconic cricket heroes

ROGER BINNY
BCCI president

We have lost one of Indian cricket's crown jewels. His eye-catching batting style and his overall aura made him special

JAY SHAH
BCCI secretary

Very sad day for Indian cricket. As a young kid I had watched him play in Hyderabad

MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN

Easily one of the most colourful cricketers of India

RAVI SHASTRI

His skill, swag and his stories are folklore. Always had a kind word about every cricketer

ANIL KUMBLE

India's first Arjuna Award-winning cricketer and a man who hit sixes on public demand. Heartfelt condolences

V.V.S. LAXMAN

Deeply saddened. A really warm and loving person

SACHIN TENDULKAR

Charismatic, large-hearted and brilliant. I wish the younger generation could hear more stories about him

HARSHA BHOGLE

Royals settle the issue right in the PowerPlays against Sunrisers

IPL-16

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Sunrisers Hyderabad lost the contest in the PowerPlays – first when Rajasthan Royals, put in to bat, scored 85 for one and then when the host scored just 30 for two, chasing 204 for victory.

It was a complete, all-round performance from Royals which helped them record a 72-run win in an IPL match at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Sunday.

The host was never in the hunt after left-arm pacer Trent Boult struck twice in the first over of the innings – removing Abhishek Sharma and Rahul Tripathi – the latter steering only to see Jason Holder take a brilliant, diving catch at slip – without conceding any run.

Soon, leggie Yuzvendra Chahal, who had a four-wicket haul, left Harry Brook bewildered with the wrong one, and later on Jason Holder saw Washington Sundar mistime a pull to be easily caught at mid-on.

Then the seasoned off-spinner R. Ashwin induced an uppish drive from Glenn Phillips straight to covers.

Earlier, Royals, put in to bat, were off to a flier with openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jos Buttler handling the bowlers with disdain as they put on 85 in six overs.

After Jaiswal started off with some clean hits including an off-drive and a pull of the Sunrisers' captain Bhuvaneshwar, Buttler changed gears.

First, Buttler swung Bhuvneshwar for a six, later hit two consecutive sixes off offie Washington in his first over. Left-arm pacer T. Natarajan too was at the receiving end in his first over.

Left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi provided the much-needed relief, dismissing Buttler.

Despite Sanju Samson's breezy knock, the Sunrisers bowlers fought back well, but it wasn't enough.

In top gear: Buttler was in a hurry, rattling up a 22-ball 54. K.V.S. GIRI

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Mayank b Farooqi 54 *(37b, 9x4)*, Jos Buttler b Farooqi 54 *(22b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Sanju Samson c Abhishek b Natarajan 55 *(32b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal b Umran 2 *(5b)*, Riyan Parag c Farooqi b Natarajan 7 *(6b, 1x4)*, Shimron Hetmyer (not out) 22 *(16b, 1x4, 1x6)*, R. Ashwin (not out) 1 *(2b)*; Extras (b-5, lb-1, w-2): 8; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 203.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-85 (Buttler, 5.5 overs), 2-139 (Jaiswal, 12.3), 3-151 (Padikkal, 14.1), 4-170 (Parag, 16.1), 5-187 (Samson, 18.3).

SUNRISERS BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 3-0-36-0, Farooqi 4-0-41-2, Washington 3-0-32-0, Natarajan 3-0-23-2, Rashid 4-0-33-0, Umran 3-0-32-1.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Abhishek Sharma b Boult 0 *(3b)*, Mayank Agarwal c Buttler b Chahal 27 *(23b, 3x4)*, Rahul Tripathi c Holder b Boult 0 *(2b)*, Harry Brook b Chahal 13 *(21b, 1x4)*, Washington Sundar c Hetmyer b Holder 1 *(5b)*, Glenn Phillips c Asif b R. Ashwin 8 *(6b, 1x6)*, Abdul Samad **(Impact Player in place of Farooqi)** (not out) 32 *(32b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Adil Rashid st. Samson b Chahal 18 *(13b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar b Chahal 6 *(10b)*, Umran Malik (not out) 19 *(8b, 1x4, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-3, w-3): 7; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 131.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Abhishek, 0.3), 2-0 (Tripathi, 0.5), 3-34 (Brook, 6.6), 4-39 (Washington, 8.2), 5-48 (Phillips, 9.3), 6-52 (Mayank, 10.6), 7-81 (Rashid, 13.6), 8-95 (Bhuvneshwar, 17.5).

ROYALS BOWLING
Boult 4-1-21-2, Asif 3-0-15-0, Holder 3-0-16-1, R. Ashwin 4-0-27-1, Chahal 4-0-17-4, Saini **(Impact Player in place of Jaiswal)** 2-0-34-0.

Toss: Sunrisers; **PoM:** Buttler.
Royals won by 72 runs.

Next assignment

RR: April 5 vs. **PBKS**
Guwahati, 7.30 p.m.

SRH: April 7 vs. **LSG**
Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

Kohli, du Plessis make it a walk in the park for RCB; Tilak's blitz in vain

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bangalore made a flying start to its IPL campaign with a comprehensive eight-wicket win over Mumbai Indians at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday.

Skipper Faf du Plessis (73, 43b, 5x4, 6x6) and Virat Kohli (82 n.o., 49b, 6x4, 5x6) powered RCB to the 172-run target with 22 balls to spare.

The MI attack was utterly disappointing, serving up overpitched freebies to du Plessis and Kohli. They were happy to accept the gifts, putting on a match-winning 148-run stand. RCB raced ahead of the curve at 53 for no loss at the end of the PowerPlay, and when the 100-run mark was reached in just 10.3 overs, the writing was on the wall.

Kohli received a couple of lives. Archer put down a tough return catch when the batter was on seven, and Hrithik Shokeen dropped a sitter when Kohli was on 68.

After being put in to bat, a brilliant unbeaten 84 from Tilak Verma helped MI put up a respectable total. Tilak's knock rescued MI, which was struggling at 20 for three at one stage. Tilak hammered nine fours and four sixes to record his highest IPL score. He finished the MI innings with a helicopter shot over long-on for a six.

Apart from Tilak, none of the MI batters looked convincing. Skipper Rohit Sharma (1, 10b) looked out of sorts, while Ishan Kishan (10) and Cameron Green (5) fell cheaply. Suryakumar Yadav was expected to pull MI back on track, but the middle-order maverick was taken out by off-spinner Michael Bracewell for 15.

RCB fast bowler Mohammed Siraj was incisive with the new ball, keeping a tight lid on the scoring rate with a stump-to-stump line. Leg-spiner Karn Sharma was impressive in the middle overs, taking two crucial wickets.

Reece Topley hurt his shoulder while fielding, and left the ground for treatment.

Blazing away: Kohli took Royal Challengers past the finish line with an unbeaten 49-ball 82. K. MURALI KUMAR

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS
Rohit Sharma c Karthik b Akash Deep 1 *(10b)*, Ishan Kishan c Harshal b Siraj 10 *(13b, 2x4)*, Cameron Green b Topley 5 *(4b, 1x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Shahbaz b Bracewell 15 *(16b, 1x4)*, Tilak Varma (not out) 84 *(46b, 9x4, 4x6)*, Nehal Wadhera c Kohli b Karn 21 *(13b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Tim David b Karn 4 *(7b)*, Hrithik Shokeen c du Plessis b Harshal 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Arshad Khan (not out) 15 *(9b, 1x6)*; Extras (w-10, nb-1): 11; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 171.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-11 (Kishan, 2.3 overs), 2-16 (Green, 3.3), 3-20 (Rohit, 5.2), 4-48 (Suryakumar, 8.5), 5-98 (Wadhera, 13.5), 6-105 (David, 15.3), 7-123 (Shokeen, 17.1).

RCB BOWLING
Siraj 4-0-21-1, Topley 2-0-14-1, Akash Deep 3-0-29-1, Harshal 4-0-43-1, Karn 4-0-32-2, Bracewell 2-0-16-1, Maxwell 1-0-16-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Virat Kohli (not out) 82 *(49b, 6x4, 5x6)*, Faf du Plessis c David b Arshad 73 *(43b, 5x4, 6x6)*, Dinesh Karthik c Tilak b Green 0 *(3b)*, Glenn Maxwell (not out) 12 *(3b, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-1, w-4): 5; Total (for two wkts. in 16.2 overs): 172.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-148 (du Plessis, 14.5), 2-149 (Karthik, 15.3).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Behrendorff **(Impact Player in place of Suryakumar)** 3-0-37-0, Arshad 2.2-0-28-1, Archer 4-0-33-0, Chawla 4-0-26-0, Green 2-0-30-1, Shokeen 1-0-17-0.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** du Plessis.
RCB won by eight wickets with 22 balls to spare.

Next assignment

RCB: April 6 vs. **KKR**
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

MI: April 8 vs. **CSK**
Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

INBRIEF

R. RAGU

Dhoni recalls the journey of India's 2011 WC win

On the 12th anniversary of India's 2011 World Cup triumph, M.S. Dhoni, who led the team to victory, recalled the journey of his side through the tournament. He revealed in Chennai on Sunday he was overcome with emotion minutes before he scored the iconic six to seal the chase against Sri Lanka at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. "It was not the winning moment; it was 15-20 minutes before. We didn't need a lot of runs; the partnership was well-placed, and we knew we would win. The stadium started to sing *Vande Mataram*. That atmosphere, I feel, is very difficult to recreate," said Dhoni at an event in which he was gifted a FanCraze digital collectable of the winning shot.

Sri Lanka pips New Zealand in thrilling Super Over

Sri Lanka claimed a dramatic Super Over win in the opening match of the three-game T20 series against New Zealand in Auckland on Sunday to earn a first victory on the tour. Both teams chalked up 196. New Zealand only made eight for two off a tight Super Over bowled by spinner Maheesh Theekshana before Charith Asalanka smashed a six off the second ball of Sri Lanka's response, then sealed victory with a four.

The scores: Sri Lanka 196/5 in 20 overs (Charith Asalanka 67, Kusal Perera 53 n..o, Kusal Mendis 25) bt New Zealand 196/8 in 20 overs (Daryl Mitchell 66, Mark Chapman 33, Tom Latham 27) via **Super Over [New Zealand 8/2, Sri Lanka 11/0].**

ROUND-UP

Mandakini 'tricks as Manipur thrashes Gujarat

BENGALURU:
Mandakini Devi scored a hat-trick as Manipur thrashed Gujarat 6-0 in a Group Six match of the 27th Senior Women's National football at the Football Stadium on Sunday.

The results: Manipur 6 (Iron Parmeshwori Devi 29, Moirangthem Mandakini Devi 34, 45+3, 65, S. Lynda Kom 51, Kangabam Anita Devi 43) bt Gujarat 0. Assam 9 (Yangoijam Kiran Bala Chanu 9, 78, Yumkhaibam Hemolata Devi 34, Thingbaijam Babysana Devi 39, 90+2, Ningthoujam Roni Devi 67, 90, Maibam Promila Devi 48, 77) bt Bihar 1 (Nisha Kumari 73).

KSFA plans football camps

The Karnataka State Football Association intends to hold summer camps in Bengaluru and other districts from April 15. KSFA will provide a qualified coach and footballs for the camp. Interested organisers can email ksfasummercamp@gmail.com.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
Premier League: SS Select 2 & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday).

Returning to its fortress should stoke the fire in CSK's belly

Death bowling is an area of concern for the home team as it takes on Lucknow Super Giants which is coming off from a win

Vital cog: Stokes' contribution with the bat will be crucial for CSK. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

IPL-16

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings, returning to its fortress at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium for the first time since 2019, will hope to get the better of Lucknow Super Giants here on Monday.

CSK lost the season opener in Ahmedabad to Gujarat Titans by five wickets and will need to come up with an improved overall performance to tackle the Super Giants' challenge.

While Ruturaj Gaikwad laid the platform with a brilliant 92, none of the other batters complemented him, and Super Kings ended up with a sub-par total which proved costly in the end.

TODAY'S MATCH

Chennai Super Kings vs. Lucknow Super Giants

Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 1
CSK 0 | LSG 1

ONLY MEETING
LSG won by six wickets, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

Similarly, death bowling is an area of concern with an inexperienced pace attack.

However, the pitch at Chepauk, which has traditionally assisted spin, should favour the home team and paper over the cracks in its bowling department. A lot rides on left-arm spinners Mitchell Santner and Ravindra Jadeja to give breakthroughs during the middle overs.

On the other hand, Super Giants come into the game on the back of a thumping 50-run win over the Delhi Capitals in its first match.

Fiery pace

The West Indian contingent of Kyle Mayers and Nicholas Pooran led LSG's charge with the bat before Mark Wood sealed it with a brilliant five-wicket haul. Wood's fiery pace could pose a big challenge for the Super Kings' top order.

But before whatever happens over 40 overs on Monday, expect the biggest cheers reverberating across the stadium when M.S. Dhoni walks to the centre for the toss. It is the moment fans in the city have been waiting patiently for the last few years. A CSK win will just be the icing on the cake.

Maiden win for Harika; Vaishali loses

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

D. Harika crushed Georgia's Nino Batsiashvili in 47 moves for her first victory in the FIDE Women's Grand Prix chess tournament here on Sunday.

On a day when K. Humpy (3) enjoyed a bye, R. Vaishali (1.5) lost to Polina Shuvalova.

China's Zhu Jiner overcame some anxious moments before holding Bibisara Assaubayeva.

In the last game to finish, Kateryna Lagno reached a completely winning position against Aleksandra Goryachkina but chose to take a draw by perpetual checks since she was in danger of losing on time.

The results (eighth round): D. Harika (3) bt Nino Batsiashvili (Geo, 1.5); Polina Shuvalova (FIDE, 3.5) bt R. Vaishali (1.5); Zhu Jiner (Chn, 4.5) drew with Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 5); Kateryna Lagno (FIDE, 4) drew with Aleksandra Goryachkina (FIDE, 4); K. Humpy (3), Nana Dzagnidze (Geo, 2) bye.

Verstappen beats Hamilton to the title in a chaotic race

Day's harvest: Verstappen celebrates after the Australian GP victory at Albert Park Circuit. GETTY IMAGES

AUSTRALIAN GP

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Max Verstappen held off a revived Lewis Hamilton to steer his Red Bull to a chaotic win at the Australian Grand Prix here on Sunday.

The World champion began from pole and, despite being passed by Mercedes pair George Russell and Hamilton at the start, kept his cool to win a race red-flagged three times, with multiple crashes.

Hamilton came home second ahead of Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso, who made it three podium finishes from three this year.

It was a disastrous day for Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, last year's winner, who spun out on the first lap, while Russell's car caught fire on lap 19 and his race too was over.

This was Verstappen's maiden win in Melbourne and Red Bull's first in Australia since Sebastian Vettel's 2011 triumph.

Verstappen's teammate and Saudi Arabia winner Sergio Perez sliced through the field to come in the fifth place after qualifying last due to brake issues, behind Lance Stroll in the other Aston Martin.

Late drama

The Red Bull triumph came despite unbelievable late drama that saw a red flag come out when Verstappen had a comfortable lead from Hamilton and Alonso with two laps left, meaning they had a bunched re-start.

But it descended into chaos when Alonso was clipped by Ferrari's Carlos Sainz and sent into a spin, which caused a flow-on effect with multiple other cars coming to grief. Sainz was given a five-second penalty, eventually finishing 12th, and the race stopped again.

Lando Norris in a McLaren was sixth, Niko Hulkenberg in the Haas seventh and rookie Oscar Piastri, in the other McLaren, eighth.

THE RESULTS

1. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 2:32:38.271s; 2. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) at 0.179s; 3. Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin) 0.769s.

4. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin) 3.082s; 5. Sergio Perez (Red Bull) 3.320s; 6. Lando Norris (McLaren) 3.701s; 7. Nico Hulkenberg (Haas) 4.939s; 8. Oscar Piastri (McLaren) 5.382s; 9. Zhou Guanyu (Alfa Romeo) 5.713s; 10. Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauri) 6.052s.

11. Valtteri Bottas (Alfa Romeo) 6.513s; 12. Carlos Sainz (Ferrari) 6.594s; 13. Esteban Ocon (Alpine) 4 laps; 14. Pierre Gasly (Alpine) 4 laps; 15. Logan Sargeant (WilliamsMercedes) 5 laps; 16. Nyck de Vries (AlphaTauri) 5 laps.

Best lap: Perez 1:20.235 on the 52nd.

DNF: Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) 1 lap, Alexander Albon (Williams) 8 laps, George Russell (Mercedes) 18 laps, Kevin Magnussen (Haas) 53 laps, Logan Sargeant (USA/Williams-Mercedes) 55 laps, Nyck de Vries (NED/AlphaTauri-Red Bull) 55 laps, Esteban Ocon (FRA/Alpine-Renault) 56 laps, Pierre Gasly (FRA/Alpine-Renault) 56 laps

World championship standings:

Drivers: 1. Verstappen (Ned) 69 pts, 2. Perez (Mex) 54, 3. Alonso (Esp) 45, 4. Hamilton (GBR) 38, 5. Sainz (Esp) 20, 6. Stroll (Can) 20, 7. Russell (GBR) 18, 8. Norris (GBR) 8, 9. Hulkenberg (Ger) 6, 10. Leclerc (Mon) 6, Valtteri Bottas (Fin) 4, 12. Ocon (Fra) 4, 13. Piastri (Aus) 4, 14. Gasly (Fra) 4, 15. Guanyu (Chn) 2, 16. Tsunoda (Jpn) 1, 17. Magnussen (Den) 1, 18. Albon (Tha) 1, 19. Sargeant (USA) 0, 20. de Vries (Ned) 0.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 123 pts, 2. Aston Martin 65, 3. Mercedes 56, 4. Ferrari 26, 5. McLaren 12, 6. Alpine 8, 7. Haas 7, 8. Alfa Romeo 6, 9. AlphaTauri 1, Williams 1.

Lingering memories

Truly special! Anil Kumble and Rahul Dravid will long cherish their meeting with the enthusiastic and energetic Salim Durani. The popular India cricketer, who passed away on Sunday, was always eager to share his experience and expertise. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Loffhagen's consistency wins him the title

Reward for toil: Loffhagen, left, and Ellis at the conclusion of the Mysuru Open on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Happy faces: Vishnuvardhan and Sasikumar, who won the doubles crown on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sports Bureau
MYSURU

Unseeded George Loffhagen of Britain, playing consistent, attacking tennis, upset eighth-seeded Blake Ellis of Australia 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(4) in two hours and 49 minutes to win the men's singles title at the M25 WTT Mysuru Open at the MTC courts here on Sunday.

Absorbing first set

In an absorbing first set, Loffhagen broke serve in the third game, but Ellis broke back to level at 4-4.

Two forehand cross-court winners saw Ellis go up 5-4 and a break of serve in the 10th game, after having four set-points, saw him take the set 6-4.

The second set saw Loffhagen fight back, breking serve in the third and seventh games to go 5-2 up and go on to take the set 6-2. The decider went with serve and in the tie-breaker, Loffhagen ran up a 5-2 lead with Ellis committing too many unforced errors. Loffhagen won the set and match 7-6(4) and also the hearts of the Sunday crowd.

The result: Final:

George Loffhagen (GBR) bt Ellis Blake (Aus) 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(4).

Kvitova beats Rybakina for 30th WTA title

Agence France-Presse
MIAMI GARDENS

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova drew on all her experience to claim her 30th WTA singles title with a 7-6(14), 6-2 Miami Open victory over Elena Rybakina on Saturday.

Czech Kvitova will return the to the top 10 in world rankings.

Rybakina came into the final on a career-best 13-match winning streak after winning the title at Indian Wells and was looking for the rare 'Sunshine Double' of both WTA 1000 events.

Kvitova won 78% of her service points (52 of 67) and finished with 29 winners to 14 unforced errors.

Lewandowski nets brace in Barca's win

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press
BARCELONA

Robert Lewandowski scored twice in Barcelona's 4-0 win at last-place Elche on Saturday as the Catalan club opened up a 15-point lead atop the standings in pursuit of its first LaLiga league title in four years.

Lewandowski opened the scoring in the 20th minute and added Barcelona's third goal in the 66th to take his league-leading tally to 17 goals in his first season in Spain.

Ansu Fati doubled the lead in the 56th and Ferran Torres rounded off one of Barcelona's most comfortable victories of the campaign in the 70th.

Meanwhile in the Bundesliga, Bayern Munich went back to the top, defeating Borussia Dortmund 4-2 at home to give Thomas Tuchel a winning start as coach of the Bavarian giants.

The results:

Premier League: West Ham 1 (Aguerd 25) bt Southampton 0.

Serie A: Bologna 3 (Posch 3, Moro 12, Barrow 49) bt Udinese 0; Monza 0 lost to Lazio 2 (Pedro 13, Milinkovic-Savic 56); Spezia 1 (Shomorodov 70) drew with Salernitana 1 (Caldara 43-og).

La Liga: Celta Vigo 2 (Seferovic 10, Perez 42) drew with Almeria 2 (Babic 7, Puigmal 32).

On Saturday: Elche 0 lost to Barcelona 4 (Lewandowski 20, 66, Fati 56, Torres 70).

Ankita goes down in the final in Jakarta

Sports Bureau

Fourth seed Ankita Raina was unable to capitalise on a strong start and was beaten 3-6, 6-0, 6-2 by Zhuoxuan Bai of China in the final of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Sunday.

The 30-year-old has had a fine run in the first quarter of the season, making two finals apart from a semifinal, in eight tournaments. She had made the final of the $40,000 event in Bengaluru, and the semifinal of a similar event earlier in Pune.

The results: $25,000 ITF women, Jakarta, Indonesia: Final: Zhuoxuan Bai (Chn) bt Ankit aRaina 3-6, 6-0, 6-2.